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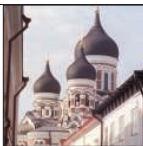
So far, so good
for Heat since
adding Shaq

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Front-line troops
get 30 more days
of carryover leave

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Tallinn: Estonian
capital straddles
the centuries

Travel magazine inside

Volume 63, No. 208 © EPSS 2004

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THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 11, 2004

50¢

U.S. troops control most of Fallujah

- U.S. officials believe most insurgents have fled city
- Iraqi forces find suspected 'hostage slaughterhouses'

Pages 8-9

Troops' bravery honored in Iraq

Page 5

Nine soldiers from the 1st Infantry Division's 1st Squadron, 4th Cavalry Regiment received Purple Hearts on Tuesday at Forward Operating Base MacKenzie, Iraq, for injuries received this year during Operation Iraqi Freedom. That brings the number of 1-4 Cavalry soldiers receiving Purple Hearts to 34, said Lt. Col. Jim Chevallier, the squadron commander.

STEVE LIEWER
Stars and Stripes



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News Tracker ... What's new with old news

States

Charitable lemonade stands: Three months after Alexandra Scott died of cancer at age 8, her goal of raising \$1 million for cancer research this year by selling lemonade has been surpassed.

Alexandra's parents said Tuesday that the 2004 total probably will be close to \$1.5 million, which the Alex's Lemonade Stand foundation will donate to cancer-research institutions, as it has done since Alex set up her charity four years ago.

'Passion' confession: The parents of a slain teenager whose attacker came forward after watching the movie "The Passion of the Christ" have filed a complaint with the state about their daughter's autopsy.

The parents of Ashley Nicole Wilson contend that the Harris County, Texas, Medical Examiner's Office did not detect their 19-year-old daughter's pregnancy. That's despite an obstetrician's examination showing she was pregnant seven days before her death, according to parents Renee Coulter and Dan Wilson.

Ashley Wilson, 19, 15 death was initially ruled a suicide, then changed to a homicide after the confession.

Big Dig leaks: The Big Dig highway project in downtown Boston is riddled with leaks dumping millions of gallons of water into the \$14.6 billion tunnel system, according to an engineer hired to investigate the cause of a massive leak in September.

Fixing the hundreds of leaks could take up to 10 years, said Jack K. Lemley, a consultant hired by the Massachusetts Turnpike Authority to investigate the problem.

Lemley told the Boston Globe for a story in Wednesday editions that repairing September's leak would require two months and include traffic lane closures.

McGreavey's future: From advocating for gays to pushing for stem cell research, life beyond the New Jersey governorship appears to be full of possibilities for James E. McGreavey.

As the soon-to-be former governor contemplates a future that begins with his resignation at midnight Monday, his options are seemingly wide open: advocates are courting him to take up their causes, and he has already agreed to be a volunteer for a national education organization, said his friend, state Sen. Raymond Lesniak.

World

Sept. 11 trial: One of the Sept. 11 suicide pilots mentioned the World Trade Center and said "you will think of me again" during an anti-American outburst two years before the attacks on the United States, a witness at the retrial of a man suspected of aiding the attacks testified Wednesday in Hamburg, Germany.

Similar evidence from librarian Angela Dulle, 33, helped secure the original conviction last year of Moumin el Motassadeq, a Moroccan who is accused of providing logistical support to the Hamburg al-Qaida cell that included three Sept. 11 hijackers — Mo-



Pope award: Yusuf Islam, third from right, formerly known as rock star Cat Stevens, shows the Gorbachev Foundation Man for Peace 2004 award after receiving it from former Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev, right, and Rome Mayor Walter Veltroni, second from right, Wednesday in Rome. Islam received the award before the start of the 5th World Summit of Nobel Peace Laureates conference in Rome. He was detained flying into the United States in September after his name appeared on a terrorism watch list.

amed Atta, Marwan al-Shehhi and Ziad Jarrah.

Gore's new gig: Former U.S. Vice President Al Gore was named chairman Tuesday of Generation Investment Management, a new London-based fund management firm that plans to create environment-friendly portfolios.

Generation Investment will manage assets of institutional investors, such as pension funds, foundations and endowments, as well as those of "high net worth individuals," from offices in London and Washington, D.C.



Gore

Afghanistan kidnappings: The kidnappers of three U.N. election workers in Afghanistan claimed Wednesday a deal for their release soon could be reached, even as the United States indicated it would not free jailed militants in return.

A Taliban splinter group says 26 prisoners, some of them in Guantanamo Bay, must be freed if it is to spare the lives of the three foreigners, who were abducted 13 days ago in the Kabul.

Military officials in Afghanistan have declined to say whether they will release any suspects. But visiting U.S. Deputy Secretary of State Richard Armitage said the United States' policy is not to negotiate with terrorists.

Pakistan nuclear scientist: Pakistan's Supreme Court on Wednesday dismissed a petition against the detention of disgraced nuclear scientist Abdul Qadeer Khan after he submitted a letter saying he was being

"looked after well."

Khan has been under virtual house arrest in Islamabad since a scandal broke in December over his alleged black market dealings that supplied nuclear weapons technology to Iran, North Korea and Libya.

A friend of Khan's, Hussam-ul Haq, had petitioned the court, and has claimed that the scientist was in poor health and recently suffered a mild heart attack — denied by Pakistani authorities.

North Korea nuclear crisis: U.S. experts briefed NATO allies Wednesday on international efforts to curb North Korea's nuclear ambitions.

NATO officials in Brussels, Belgium, declined to give details of the confidential briefing.

They stressed the alliance was not directly involved in efforts to persuade North Korea to drop its nuclear weapons program, but said the U.S. briefing reflected NATO's growing role as a forum for exchanges of political information between Europe and North America.

Business

Stewart legal bills: Imprisoned homemaking mogul Martha Stewart has asked the company she founded, Martha Stewart Living Omnimedia Inc., to reimburse her for \$3.7 million in legal bills.

The company disclosed the request in a regulatory filing Tuesday.

The \$3.7 million figure applies to Stewart's defense on a single criminal count — a charge that she propped up the company's stock price, and therefore her own wealth, in 2002 by declaring her innocence in a personal stock scandal. A federal judge threw out that count before it went to a jury.

Stories and photos from The Associated Press

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Wiesbaden ceremony honors warfighters past and present

BY JESSICA INIGO
Stars and Stripes

WIESBADEN, Germany — A ceremony Wednesday at Wiesbaden Army Airfield gave a salute to American veterans.

A Veterans Day ceremony on Minus Field honored 1st Armored Division and 1st Infantry Division troops for their fight against terror, and remembered veterans of past conflicts.

"There's really been a turn around since the [Persian] Gulf War, where we value our military," said Joe Mulligan, a Gulf War veteran and commander of the Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 27 in Wiesbaden.

"After Vietnam, where there were no welcome home ceremonies, [the veterans] were derided by the public, spit on ... You can really see how they're taking care of the soldiers now."

During the ceremony, Mulligan recalled a parade he went to as a child in Ohio. His father, a World War II veteran, marched through the parade route in his small town of Athens, while, in Mulligan's 6-year-old mind, more people watched than the town could even hold.

He said that day — with marching veterans from past wars, men and women of the U.S. armed forces in passing cars and proud family members lining the streets — remains etched in his memory.

But, he said each year the cele-



Veterans salute during the playing of the national anthem at the 1st Armored Division Veterans Day ceremony in Wiesbaden on Wednesday.

bration dwindled more and more until it was near extinction.

Now, as he looked across the wet parade field, with eight tanks enclosing an honor platoon, color guard and the U.S. Army Europe brass quintet, Mulligan said this Veterans Day ceremony was a "class act."

Maj. Gen. Martin E. Dempsey, 1st AD commander, followed Mulligan and explained how Veterans Day would never be the same for the men and women on the parade field who fought and now prepare to head back into harm's way.

"In this current conflict, you

are what terrorizes the terrorist," a proud Dempsey said from under the flag pole on the Minus Parade Field. He explained that just several months earlier these troops were in the pit of the enemy sanctuary. Now, that same place is becoming a haven for the people of Iraq who want peace.

Gen. H. H. Arnold High School Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps students presented wreaths to both divisions in honor of troops who died during Operation Iraqi Freedom. Another wreath was presented to Dempsey for the sacrifice all veterans have made.

E-mail Jessica Inigo at: inigoj@mail.estripes.osd.mil



PHOTOS BY MICHAEL ABRAMS/Stars and Stripes

Spec. Anthony Cabrera, of Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 141st Signal Battalion, salutes after placing a flag in front of a marker representing World War II during the Veterans Day ceremony at Wiesbaden Army Airfield, Germany, on Wednesday. A flag was placed for all conflicts fought by the U.S. military since World War I at the ceremony.

Computer-simulated drills prep SETAF for Afghan mission

BY RICK EMERT
Stars and Stripes

GRAFENWÖHR, Germany — The command staffs from the Southern European Task Force and supporting units that will deploy to Afghanistan early next year will use several computer-simulated scenarios related to the country's provincial elections slated for next year.

The weeklong exercise at Grafenwöhr Training Area, which ended Tuesday, simulated 10 days in Afghanistan, according to Staff Sgt. Rick Scavetta, a task force spokesman.

"[The scenarios] involve enemy movement designed to disrupt our operations," said Capt. Raymond Mattox, plans officer for the 1st Brigade, 82nd Airborne Division, based at Fort Bragg, N.C. The brigade, along with two rotating battalions of Marines, make up Task Force Devil and will augment SETAF for Combined Joint Task Force 76, Mattox said.

"We have to figure out what we want to do and what the enemy will do to try to stop us," Mattox said.

The exercise also included several role-playing reports and exercise participants had to conduct press conferences and interviews as if the simulated events happening on their computer screens were



RAY-JOHN RAMOS/Courtesy of the U.S. Army

U.S. Army Chaplain (Capt.) Ibraheem Raheem of the 127th Aviation Support Battalion, left, plays the role of a Muslim religious leader with Chaplain (Col.) Charles Bailey, with Combined Joint Task Force 76, Monday during the Southern European Task Force's training exercise at Grafenwöhr Training Area.

real.

"Our primary focus is to make sure we set up the Afghanistan people for success," said 1st Brigade Command Sgt. Maj. Thomas Capel. Although his remarks were related to the scenarios in the exercise, they also were fitting to what the task force hopes to accomplish in Afghanistan.

The Afghans "will be the ones raising

the Afghanistan flag and saying: 'This is my country,'" he said.

The tempo of the exercise scenarios was designed to be significantly more intense than the tempo of real-world events in Afghanistan likely would be.

"There is no part of this headquarters sitting back wondering when something is going to happen to them," said Brig. Gen.

John Sterling, the task force deputy commander.

"[U.S. Army Europe and the 7th Army Training Command] have done a great job of putting together all the people and things needed to provide us realistic training."

Although the scenarios are simulated with some physical interaction with role players, Sterling said the exercise makes the staff members think about how they would handle such situations if they were to come up in the Afghanistan rotation next year.

"We are getting exposed to these challenges here, so we don't have to face them for the first time downrange," Sterling said.

"After this training is over, we will definitely feel like we have been in Afghanistan for at least a week," task force Command Sgt. Maj. Iuniasolua Savusa said on Monday.

Soldiers currently deployed to Afghanistan went to Grafenwöhr to share their real-world experiences.

"This [exercise] is win-win for everybody," said Lt. Col. Steve Tablennan, chief of Civil Military Operations for CJTF-76. He deployed to Afghanistan in August with the 360th Civil Affairs Brigade (Airborne) based at Fort Jackson, S.C.

"We are sharing the lessons learned from the soldiers who are already downrange, and there is also an exchange of good ideas from SETAF that we can take back with us."

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American missing

German police are seeking information about an American woman who is married to a service member in Kaiserslautern, Germany, and disappeared more than two weeks ago, according to a news release issued Wednesday.

Billie Jo Johnson, 33, was last seen Oct. 24 on a train near Mannheim, heading toward Kaiserslautern, a 435th Air Base Wing press release said.

Johnson is 5 feet 2 inches tall, with blond, shoulder-length hair in dreadlocks. She was last seen carrying a blue-and-gray backpack, the release said.

Anyone with information about Johnson's whereabouts should call the Kaiserslautern German police at (0631)-369-2620, or any police station.

Red Sea rescue

Sailors aboard a U.S. guided-missile destroyer rescued a dozen crewmembers Monday in the Red Sea after their motor vessel caught fire.

The USS The Sullivans responded immediately to distress calls from the crew of the White Star, according to a Navy news release. The 12-member crew from the Grand Cayman Islands-based vessel included citizens from the United States, Croatia, the Philippines and Great Britain.

The Sullivans, which is homeported in Mayport, Fla., found the vessel drifting toward shallow water before rescuing the crew. The destroyer towed the White Star out of the area and helped bring it into harbor for repairs with the help of the Yemeni coast guard.

The Sullivans is part of a coalition of ships patrolling the seas around the Horn of Africa, the Gulf of Oman and throughout the Middle East. The destroyer deployed Aug. 20.

Soldier found guilty

DARMSTADT, Germany — Sgt. 1st Class Michael J. Holland, with the Army clinic in Darmstadt, was found guilty of adultery and fraternization during a court-martial on Cambrai-Fritsch Casern, earlier this month.

Details of the charges, which stem from incidents in Heidelberg and Darmstadt in March and July of last year, were not provided by the Darmstadt Legal Office.

The Nov. 2 and Nov. 3 trial, which was considered by a panel made up of officers and enlisted members, found that Holland was not guilty of obstructing justice.

Holland was reduced in grade to staff sergeant and will be reassigned, according to an e-mail provided by the V Corps Public Affairs Office.

From staff reports



Johnson

DoD sets new leave rule for troops

Deployed servicemembers allowed to carry over 120 days to next fiscal year

BY SCOTT SCHONAUER

Stars and Stripes

NAVAL STATION ROT 4, Spain — U.S. servicemembers on the front lines are getting a break on their growing leave time.

A new Defense Department rule lets military personnel carry over 120 days of leave — 30 days more than previously allowed — across fiscal years. The new regulation, which went into effect less than two weeks ago, applies to all branches of service.

The Navy put out a memo Oct. 29 explaining the changes.

"This is a good opportunity to the sailor that

they don't lose the leave that they've earned," said Lt. j.g. Kyle Raines, a spokesman for the Navy's Chief of Naval Personnel in Washington, D.C. "It recognizes the arduous duty and the operational commitment that they're under."

American troops have deployed often in the last three years, making it difficult for some to take all the time off they have on the books. There are about 150,000 troops in Iraq and about 20,000 soldiers in Afghanistan. In addition, the Navy has dispatched ships on short-noise deployments in the past year.

A servicemember with too much leave can get into a use-or-lose situation if they continue

accumulating time off without taking a break. Troops earn 30 days' leave each year.

Eligible personnel who want to carry their leave to the next fiscal year must request it from their command. Requests must be submitted no later than the end of the first quarter of the following fiscal year.

Military members must keep an eye on their leave so that they can make the request, if they choose, officials warn.

"The onus is on the sailor to let the command know that Lt. Spencer Cook, assistant for military pay and compensation, chief of naval personnel.

E-mail Scott Schonauer at: schonauer@mail.stripes.osd.mil

Ohio guardsmen to return home

Troops complete two-year stint guarding bases in Europe

BY KENT HARRIS

Stars and Stripes

For nearly a year, citizen soldiers from Ohio have been guarding the gates of Army and Air Force bases in the United Kingdom, Italy and Belgium.

That's all scheduled to change at the end of the month, when Task Force Reaper Sentinel finishes its mission — ending a span of more than two years when National Guard troops helped secure bases in Europe.

"It's been very interesting," said Lt. Col. Homer Rogers, task force commander and head of the 1st Battalion, 134th Field Artillery Regiment. "For a lot of them, being in the National Guard, this was their first taste of active-duty life."

Shortly after the Sept. 11, 2001, terror attacks, the Air Force worked out an agreement with the National Guard that eventually sent to Europe troops from places such as Puerto Rico, Minnesota and New Mexico. That agreement, and a similar one for Army bases in Vicenza and Livorno, both in Italy, and Belgium, ends this month.

So those bases that have had the Guard units helping out will have to find other ways to supplement their forces.

Larry Kilgore, force protection manager at Air Force bases, said additional Italian security guards have been hired to replace the departing soldiers.

"For the community, they've been really good. But as far as the protection level, there won't be a difference."

Fred L. Toni Tones, a public affairs officer for U.S. Air Forces in Europe, declined to talk about specific measures Air Force bases will take. But she said "security and protection of all USAF bases will not be compromised with the Army's withdrawal."

Rogers said some of his troops weren't happy initially to hear they'd be coming to Europe to fill the gap, instead of heading to a place such as Iraq with theirowitz.

"Some of the soldiers were dis-



KENT HARRIS/Stars and Stripes

Spec. Aaron Stanley, of Battery B, 1st Battalion, 134th Field Artillery Regiment of the Ohio National Guard, checks an identification card Tuesday at Aviano Air Base, Italy. The 470-member contingent is set to leave Europe at the end of the month and won't be replaced by another guard rotation.

appointed in that they wanted to go into the box," he said. But most have come to realize that, by performing their roles in Europe, they've freed up others to go to Iraq, he said. "This is an important duty."

Battery F, attached to the 134th in the task force, is based in Vicenza.

Capt. Kevin Brodzinski, who heads ticket sales for a minor-league baseball team in his civilian job, said he'd rather be supporting the assault on Fallujah. But he said the mission in Europe has allowed the unit to connect together much more than it had just by training on weekends and a few weeks a year. So any upcoming deployment to a trouble spot would find it in better shape.

"It's a hard transition for those Guard units that are going right over there to [Iraq]," he said.

Sgt. 1st Class Douglas Lundblad agreed.

"We now know what the guys are who we can count on to do certain things and who's going to react in certain ways."

The only part of their jobs they

haven't been doing, Brodzinski said, is firing their howitzers.

"We didn't deploy with anything except our personal gear and small arms," Rogers said.

Task force members haven't had to use those arms, though they have been involved in a few incidents, most notably in the United Kingdom. A civilian parachutist mistakenly landed on the base, he said, though that wasn't known at the time. And National Guardsmen also caught three Iraqi nationals trying to sneak into base, apparently seeking asylum.

Like others before it, the task force has been spread out around the continent. For example, 1st Sgt. Erik Hewitt, the Battery F first sergeant, spent time in Germany and Turkey before his current stint in Vicenza.

Rogers said many members of the unit are looking forward to going back to Ohio.

"We're going back to being field artillery as soon as we get back," he said. "And we've got some new equipment to train on."

E-mail Kent Harris at: harris@mail.stripes.osd.mil

Security Forces awards announced

Stars and Stripes

U.S. Air Forces in Europe recently announced recipients of the command's 2003 Outstanding Security Forces Individual Awards. They are:

■ Outstanding company grade officer — Capt. David Borchardt, 52nd Security Forces Squadron, Spangdahlem Air Base, Germany

■ Outstanding flight level senior noncommissioned officer — Master Sgt. Calvin Lockett, 100th SFS, RAF Mildenhall, England

■ Outstanding flight level noncommissioned officer — Staff Sgt. Catherine Hugin, 85th SFS, Naval Air Station Keflavik, Iceland

■ Outstanding flight level airman — Senior Airman Marina Rosado, 85th SFS, NAS Keflavik

■ Outstanding support staff senior noncommissioned officer — Staff Sgt. Todd Weiden, 85th SFS, NAS Keflavik

■ Outstanding support staff noncommissioned officer — Staff Sgt. Daniel Barcomb, 568th SFS, Ramstein Air Base, Germany

■ Outstanding support staff airman — Senior Airman Timothy Hermann, 568th SFS, Ramstein

■ Outstanding civilian employee — James Leroy, 100th SFS, RAF Mildenhall

■ Outstanding higher headquarters grade officer — Capt. Christopher Ferry, Ramstein

■ Outstanding higher headquarters grade officer — Master Sgt. Walter Washington, Ramstein

■ Outstanding higher headquarters civilian employee — Scott Peake, Ramstein

■ Col. Billy Jack Carter Award — Staff Sgt. John Bernad, 48th SFS, RAF Lakenheath, England

■ Outstanding Army Soldier Award — Staff Sgt. John Bernad, 100th SFS, RAF Mildenhall

Award recipients will now compete in the Air Force-level competition.

Attempt to save wounded officer earns medals

Soldiers tried in vain to save platoon leader after ambush

BY STEVE LIEWER

Stars and Stripes

FORWARD OPERATING BASE MACKENZIE, Iraq — Staff Sgt. Paul Sponsel and Sgt. Charles Fray stood stiff and unsmiling as the general shook their hands and congratulated them for their courage.

The two men, from Troop A of the 1st Battalion, 4th Cavalry Regiment, had just received the Army Commendation Medal with Valor for their unwavering efforts under fire to save their platoon leader, 1st Lt. Andrew Houghton, after an ambush July 10.

Sponsel, 25, and Fray, 22, were among three dozen men from the 1/4 Cavalry whom Maj. Gen. John Batiste, the 1st Infantry Division commander, pinned with combat awards during a ceremony Tuesday at FOB MacKenzie, the unit's headquarters northeast of Samarra.

Two OH-58 Kiowa Warrior helicopter pilots from Troop E — Chief Warrant Officer 3 Almoos Irby, 36, and Chief Warrant Officer 2 Eric Bushmaker, 32 — received Air Medals with Valor. Other soldiers received Purple Hearts, Combat Infantryman Badges, and Combat Medical Badges.

For Sponsel and Fray, the ceremony brought honor but no joy. Houghton, 25, succumbed to his injuries at Walter Reed Army Hospital in Washington, D.C., a month after the attack, never regaining consciousness.

The soldiers took little comfort in knowing they saved Houghton long enough to die surrounded by

family and friends instead of on a desolate Iraqi road.

The new medal carries only bad memories.

"It doesn't change anything," Sponsel said, after he and others described the actions that earned the award. "I could care less if I ever talk about it again."

Houghton led two Bradley fighting vehicles from Troop A's 3rd Platoon out of the gates at FOB MacKenzie about 1 a.m. July 10. Their mission: to drop off a six-man team for a mission in the town of Duluth, about eight miles away. It was Houghton's first night out after returning from rest-and-recuperation leave with his family in Texas.

About an hour later, the Bradleys left the team out, then turned at an intersection back toward their base. Sponsel stood in the turret of the lead vehicle, while Houghton was in the hatch of the trailing vehicle alongside Fray, his gunner.

"We were talking about R&R," recalled Spc. Adrian Stone, 27, of Lytle, Texas, Houghton's driver that night. "He was talking about how much fun he had with his family, that he'd seen lots of friends in long time."

"That's when Sgt. screamed 'RPG!'"

Peering through his infrared night scope, Fray saw a rocket-propelled grenade race by so close he felt he could touch it. He didn't see who fired it, only that it came from a nearby rooftop. The gunner instantly laid down a stream of high-explosive machine-gun fire against the enemy position.



PHOTOS BY STEVE LIEWER/Stars and Stripes

Above: From left, Spc. Adrian Stone, 27; Sgt. Charles Fray, 22; and Staff Sgt. Paul Sponsel, 25, received Army Commendation Medals — Fray's and Sponsel's with Valor — for their efforts to save the life of their platoon leader, 1st Lt. Andrew Houghton, after an ambush on their Bradley fighting vehicles in Duluth, Iraq, on July 10. Houghton died of his injuries a month later. **Below:** Fray and Sponsel got tattoos on their arms: crosses adorned with the initials of two lost comrades, Houghton and Pfc. Nicholas Blodgett. Houghton and Blodgett died last summer in rocket-propelled grenade attacks on their convoys. Fray and Sponsel both received Army Commendation Medals with Valor for their efforts to save Houghton.

It surprised him that Houghton didn't immediately shout orders over the radio. When Fray looked over, he saw the officer had slumped in the turret, his chin tucked in the right side of his chest. Shining a flashlight into his face, he saw that a piece of shrapnel from the RPG had penetrated Houghton's face around the left eye. He was bleeding badly.

Fray grabbed the radio mike from Houghton's hand and reported that the platoon leader was "bleeding out."

"I just knew we had to get out of there," Fray said.

SEE HEROES ON PAGE 6



1st Squadron, 4th Cavalry Regiment pilots receive honors

BY STEVE LIEWER

Stars and Stripes

FORWARD OPERATING BASE MACKENZIE, Iraq — Though all soldiers in Iraq face danger, only a few win awards for bravery.

Chief Warrant Officer 3 Almoos Irby, who flies an OH-58 Kiowa Warrior helicopter for Troop E of the 1st Squadron, 4th Cavalry Regiment, has earned a device.

At a ceremony here Tuesday north of Balad, Maj. Gen. John Batiste pinned not one, but two, Air Medals with Valor on Irby's chest for actions in separate engagements in Baqouba on April 10 and June 24. Another Troop E pilot, Chief Warrant Officer 2 Eric Bushmaker, 32, also received the award for his conduct on April 10 in what they are calling "Battle of Baqouba."

"It's kind of a surprise, but it feels good, obviously," said Irby, 36, of Neptune, N.J. "It doesn't remind you of a happy event."

During the uprising, ground forces from the 1st Infantry Division's 1st Battalion, 6th Field Artillery called on the two-seat Kiowas — attached to the unit as a quick-reaction force — about 2:30 p.m. to flush out a group of enemy fighters crouched in a palm tree grove.

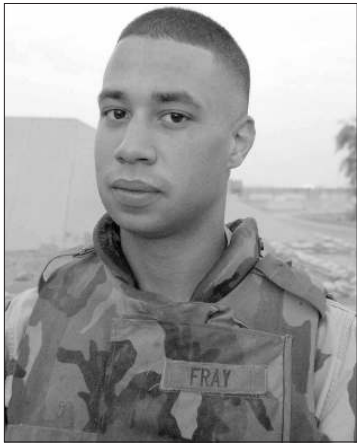
The ground troops had planned to challenge the guerrillas directly but couldn't because their main gun malfunctioned.

So the Kiowa pilots flew one pass after another directly into the fierce ground fire. They maneuvered while firing the mounted, 50-caliber machine guns as well as aiming hand-held M4 rifles straight down out the helicopters' open windows,

SEE HONORS ON PAGE 7



Chief Warrant Officer 3 Almoos Irby, 36, of Neptune, N.J., was awarded two Air Medals with Valor Tuesday for two battles with insurgents in Baqouba, Iraq. He pilots an OH-58 Kiowa Warrior helicopter for Troop E of the 1st Infantry Division's 1st Squadron, 4th Cavalry Regiment.



PHOTOS BY STEVE LIEWER/Stars and Stripes

Sgt. Charles Fray, 22, Troop A, 1st Squadron, 4th Cavalry Regiment, received an Army Commendation Medal with Valor.

Heroes: Medals tainted by loss of 1st Lt. Houghton

HEROES, FROM PAGE 5

Sponsel, now in command, could hear the report. But his radio failed at that moment, making it impossible for him to give orders. His gunner, Pfc. Calvin Perry, shouted over the roar of the Bradley's engines for them to leave the city fast.

They raced four miles to a spot outside the city, where a medevac helicopter could pick up the injured lieutenant. Once stopped, they pulled him out through the back of the Bradley and laid him on the ground.

"That's when I realized how messed up he was," Sponsel said.

They placed bandages on his wound to slow the bleeding, and Perry inserted an intravenous line. Over the radio, Sponsel learned a medevac helicopter couldn't get there for 20 minutes, longer than it would take them to get back to MacKenzie.

So they loaded Houghton back in the Bradley, where Sponsel stayed by his side as they raced back to base. But because of a communications breakdown, no one warned the MacKenzie medic.

"We put the ramp down, and I expected to see 10 or 15 medics there, but there was no one," Sponsel said.

Minutes later, a helicopter arrived to take him to the hospital at Balad Air Base. Later he was flown to Germany, and to Wash-

ington.

For the rest of the night, 3rd Platoon waited restlessly.

"It was a surreal feeling, like it didn't happen," Fray said. "But we all had blood on us."

The soldiers talked quietly among themselves, not sure what to do next.

"There was no sleeping. Just a lot of sitting and thinking," Fray said.

"And a lot of praying," Stone added.

Daily they read the Web site www.andhoughton.org

Houghton's family put up to give progress reports.

On Aug. 9, the officer, still comatose, died of a brain hemorrhage. His men still are mourning.

"He was an awesome guy," Sponsel said. "Just because he was an officer and went to West Point, he didn't put himself above everybody else."

"He covered his guys' backs numerous times," Stone said. "They always came first."

The loss of their leader, who was posthumously promoted to captain, left a wound no medal can heal.

Stone knows; he received his Army Commendation Medal a few weeks ago.

"I went and stuck it in my drawer. Every time I look at it, I think of Lt. Houghton dying," Stone said. "I just want to get this over with and go home."

E-mail Steve Liewer at: liewers@mail.strips.esd.mil

They are heroes, one and all

Other soldiers from the 1st Squadron, 4th Cavalry Regiment also received combat awards for service in Iraq. They include:

Combat Infantryman Badge

■ Troop A

Staff Sgt. Shawn Norman, 33, Phoenix; Staff Sgt. Colin Pettibone, 35, Roswell, N.M.; Sgt. Howard Hawkins, 22, Melbourne, Fla.; Sgt. Timothy Speight, 27, Caruthersville, Mo.; Spc. Ernie Morales, 21, Kingport, Tenn.; Spc. Steven Perkins, 20, Steele, Ala.; Pfc. Phillip Wroblewski, 21, Schriever, La.

■ Troop B

Sgt. 1st Class Charles Neiding, 36, Jacksonville, Fla.

Spc. Michael Bellizzi, 28, Barrington, N.H.; Spc. Jayson Carter, 21, Alliance, Neb.; Spc. Brian Hart, 24, Crestline, Calif.; Spc. Patrick Mattingly, 22, Roanoke, Va.; Spc. Ariel Quezada, 26, Phoenix; Spc. Brandon Weatherford, 23, Lebanon, Tenn.

Combat Medical Badge

Sgt. Hernandez Colon, 30, Boston; Sgt. William Rigby, 27, Midland, Ga.

Purple Hearts

■ Troop A

Staff Sgt. Metoyer Jordan, 28, New Orleans; Sgt. Michael Sampsel, 29, Seville, Ohio;

Spc. Donald Alden, 28, Naacogoches, Texas; Spc. Derrick Lawson, 21, Spring Lake, N.C.;

Spc. Steven Bishop, 32, Auburn, N.Y.;

Spc. Graeme Field, 20, Dania, Fla.;

Spc. Larry Underwood, 29, Fort Smith, Ark.

■ Troop B

1st Lt. Gilbert Comley, 24, Murrietta, Calif.;

Sgt. 1st Class Eric Curless, 39, Langley, Wash.;

Sgt. 1st Class Charles Neiding; Spc. George Hoffmeister, 21, Clay Center, Neb.;

Spc. Anthony Wong, 19, Philadelphia.

■ Wchdoctor Troop

Sgt. Javier Weingart, 27, Sonora, Texas.

■ 9th Engineer Battalion

Spc. Robert Stout, 21, Utica, Ohio;

Spc. Edgar Solis, 21, Oceanside, Calif.; Troop A, 1/4 Cavalry; Army Commendation Medal with Valor

On June 29, enemy guerrillas attacked the 1/4 Cavalry Squadron supply company to Logistical Support Area Anacosta in Balad with small-arms fire. Solis was cut off from his Bradley fighting vehicle and under fire but nevertheless got up and stopped civilian traffic on the road.

While still under fire, Solis signaled the source of fire to DeJesse and then returned fire himself. This allowed DeJesse's gunner to mark the enemy position for the rest of the convoy.

Staff Sgt. Paul Sponsel, 25, Nokomis, Fla.; Troop A, 1/4 Cavalry; Army Commendation Medal with Valor

On July 10, "Anvil 31" — a Bradley fighting vehicle carrying the platoon commander, 1st Lt. Andrew Houghton — took close-range enemy fire in Delahay. Houghton was critically wounded in the ambush. Sponsel assumed control of Anvil 31 as well as his own Bradley.

He helped take Houghton out of his Bradley, treated him, then prepared him for transport to the unit's headquarters at Forward Operating Base MacKenzie.

Instead of riding in his own Bradley, Sponsel gave control to his driver so he could ride with Houghton and give him medical treatment and comfort. Once at MacKenzie, Sponsel continued to help treat him and lift him into the medical evacuation helicopter.

Houghton died one month later from his serious wounds.

Sgt. Charles Fray, 22, Yreka, Calif.; Troop A, 1/4 Cavalry; Army Commendation Medal with Valor

Fray also was involved in the ambush that mortally wounded Houghton. Fray, Anvil 31's gunner, immediately returned gunfire, suppressing the ambush and allowing his Bradley and the other in the two-vehicle convoy to escape. Fray led his Bradley to safety, then helped in removing Houghton from his vehicle.

His quick action and leadership is credited with helping Houghton survive the attack so he could be evacuated to a hospital, though the officer died of his wounds a month later.

Chief Warrant Officer 3 Almost Irbay, 36, Neptune, N.J.; Troop E, 1st Squadron, 4th U.S. Cavalry, 2 Air Medals with Valor

On June 24, in Baqouba, Irbay maneuvered an OH-58D Kiowa Warrior helicopter to engage and destroy enemy forces.

He hit three enemy vehicles with 50-caliber machine-gun fire and a direct hit with rockets against insurgents, killing four. He brought his aircraft home without damage despite enemy fire, while avoiding both collateral damage and noncombatant casualties.

In another incident, on April 10 in Baqouba, Irbay led a team of Kiowa Warrior helicopters against hostile forces at close range. He flew directly into enemy fire to battle

the insurgents in spite of limited fuel and low power margins.

Irbay's aggressive actions negated the need for a nearby ground unit to engage the enemy. His team is credited with killing four guerrillas and injuring numerous others, without injury or damage to any aircraft, and without U.S. casualties.

Chief Warrant Officer 2 Marc Macaspac, 36, Oakland, Calif.; Troop E, 1st Squadron, 4th U.S. Cavalry; Air Medal with Valor

On April 10 in Baqouba, Macaspac was part of a team of OH-58D Kiowa Warrior helicopters that destroyed armed insurgents at close range, killing four and injuring many others.

Macaspac was the first on the team to spot the enemy troops as they ran for cover and fired at them while continuing to help pilot the aircraft. He did this while under enemy fire and with aircraft weapons systems malfunctioning.

Chief Warrant Officer 2 Eric Bushmaker, 32, Wisconsin Rapids, Wis.; Troop E, 1st Squadron, 4th U.S. Cavalry, Air Medal with Valor

On April 10 in Baqouba, Bushmaker piloted an OH-58D Kiowa Warrior helicopter as part of a team that attacked and destroyed hostile insurgents. Four of the enemy were killed, and many others injured.

Bushmaker shot at the guerrillas, continuing to help pilot the aircraft while under enemy fire and with the aircraft's weapons systems malfunctioning.

Did members of your unit receive awards for Valor or other combat awards during 2003-4 in Operation Iraqi Freedom or Operation Enduring Freedom? Stars and Stripes would like to tell your story. Contact Steve Liewer at: liewers@mail.strips.esd.mil



Some heroic servicemembers have received the Army Commendation Medal for Valor.

Honored for his efforts



PHOTOS BY STEVE LIEWER/Stars and Stripes

Major Gen. John Batiste, commander of the 1st Infantry Division, pins an Army Commendation Medal with Valor on the uniform of Staff Sgt. Paul Sponsel, 25, of the 1st Squadron, 4th Cavalry Regiment. Sponsel earned the medal for his efforts to save the life of his platoon leader, 1st Lt. Andrew Houghton, after their patrol was ambushed July 10. Houghton was promoted to captain following his death Aug. 9.

Honors: Recognizing their actions

HONORS, FROM PAGE 5

swooping in as low as 20 feet. A set of power lines in front of the grove made the attacks more treacherous.

"It was a standing firefight," Irby said. "As soon as one aircraft would peel off, the second would come in right behind."

The battle lasted about 25 minutes, until the rifle fire stopped. Ground troops later found four insurgents dead in the grove, and blood trails indicating many others had been wounded. No one in the helicopters was injured, and none of the Kiowas had a single-bullet hole.

"There was no hesitation. We just went right to work," Irby said. "Later, when we realized how close they'd gotten to us and none of us got hurt, it was pretty surrealistic."

The Battle of Baqouba was the first real combat for Troop E, but there would be plenty more.

On June 24, Irby was again on the quick-reaction force. Near Forward Operating Base Gabe in Baqouba, one of the 1st Infantry Division's unmanned aerial vehicles spotted individuals handing out weapons from a van.

Irby and his wingman tracked down the van, but the driver heard them coming and stopped at a house. The guerrillas scattered. Some of them ran inside and began firing rifles and rocket-propelled grenades at the Kiowas.

"We couldn't just lay waste to the house, because we didn't know if innocents were inside," Irby said.

But he shot up all three vehicles outside with his .50-caliber machine gun and killed four guerrillas outside with a direct rocket



Chief Warrant Officer 2 Eric Bushmaker, 32, Troop E, 1st Squadron, 4th Cavalry Regiment, received the Air Medal with Valor for actions April 10 in Baqouba, Iraq.

hit. Tracking down a van that had driven away from the house, he hovered low and stopped the vehicle. The van held a couple and three children — innocents whose house apparently had been commandeered by guerrillas. Irby let them go.

Now that they are certified heroes, Irby and Bushmaker say they realize bravery in combat isn't just the kind of guts and glory portrayed in the movies.

"It wasn't what I expected," Bushmaker said. "Something takes over. You're just too busy to think about anything else."

E-mail Steve Liewer at: liewers@mail.ustrs.com

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U.S. forces control 70 percent of Fallujah

Most insurgents believed to be gone; Iraqis find 'hostage slaughterhouses'

BY EDWARD HARRIS
The Associated Press

FALLUJAH, Iraq — U.S. forces cornered insurgents Wednesday in a narrow strip of Fallujah after a stunningly swift advance that seized control of 70 percent of the militant stronghold. An Iraqi general said troops found "hostage slaughterhouses" where foreign captives had been killed.

The abandoned houses had hostages' documents, CDs showing captives being killed, and black clothing worn by militants in videos, Maj. Gen. Abdul Qader Mohammed Jasssem Mohan said.

But it appeared none of the at least nine foreigners still in kidnappers' hands — including two Americans — were found. Mohan said he did not know which hostages' documents were uncovered.

The speed of the U.S. drive in Fallujah may indicate that most Sunni fighters and their leaders abandoned the city before the offensive and moved elsewhere to carry on the fight, officials said.

The most notorious kidnapper, Abu Musab al-Zarqawi, is believed to have fled the city.

Al-Jazeera television broadcast a videotape Wednesday with a militant group claiming to have captured 20 Iraqi soldiers in Fallujah.

Men wearing Iraqi uniforms were shown with their backs to the camera. A masked militant read a statement on the tape, but the Qatari-based station did not carry the audio.

The station said the militants promised not to kill the prisoners shown on the tape but threatened to kill others captured in the future. The videotape showed armed men pointing rifles toward men wearing Iraqi National Guard uniforms. The faces of the uniformed men were not visible.

Mohan, the head of the 2,000 Iraqi troops involved in Fallujah, said insurgents were still trying to escape encirclement. People were being tried to swim across the Euphrates River, Mohan said at a press conference alongside Lt. Gen. John F. Sattler, the

commanding general of the 1st Marine Expeditionary Force.

Many of the remaining fighters have asked to surrender, government spokesman al-Nageeb told reporters. He said Iraqi authorities "will extend amnesty" to those who have not committed major crimes.

Mohan vowed to finish uprooting Sunni gunmen, pointing to guerrilla slayings of Iraqi security forces in the past. "For this, the Iraqi armed forces don't want revenge, but they want to get rid of insurgents, the evil, the murderers," he said.

Armed men kidnapped three relatives of Iraqi Prime Minister Ayad Allawi — his cousin, the cousin's wife and their daughter-in-law — from their Baghdad home Tuesday night, al-Nageeb said. A militant group calling itself Ansar al-Jihad claimed in a Web posting to be holding them threatened to behead them in 48 hours unless the Fallujah siege is lifted. The claim's authenticity could not be verified.

Insurgent violence sharpened across central and northern Iraq on Wednesday, with at least 18 people killed in fighting Wednesday, including a U.S. soldier and a foreign contractor. Authorities clamped an immediate curfew on the northern city of Mosul as U.S. and Iraqi forces clashed with gunmen there.

Still, U.S. and Iraqi troops were pushing ahead in Fallujah.

Maj. Michael Piccoli, of the 1st Marine Expeditionary Force, said U.S. forces now control 70 percent of the city and had pushed insurgents into a narrow section flanking the main east-west highway bisecting the city.

At least 71 militants have been killed as of the beginning of the third day of intense urban combat, the military said. As of Tuesday night, 10 U.S. troops and two members of the Iraqi armed forces were reported killed, Marine reports Wednesday said 25 American troops and 16 Iraqi soldiers were wounded.

Lt. Gen. Thomas Metz, the top U.S. commander in Iraq, said Tuesday he believed the most wanted militant leader, Abu Musab



Refugees from Fallujah reach a U.S. Marine checkpoint Wednesday on the outskirts of Fallujah, Iraq. Residents reported heavy clashes and artillery shelling in the Jolan and Jumhuriya neighborhoods, along the central highway. Dead bodies lay on the streets of Jumhuriya, with dogs hovering around them, witnesses said. Residents said they were running out of food in a city that had its electricity cut two days ago.

al-Zarqawi, had escaped Fallujah. He predicted "several more days of tough urban fighting" in the city.

As Metz did on Tuesday, Sattler refused to confirm how many U.S. or Iraqi troops have died during the Fallujah operation, saying only "they would be catalogued as light at this time."

"I want to wait a few more days before we let the enemy know how ineffective, or possible effective, their tactics have been," Sattler said.

Most insurgents likely fled the city before the assault began so they could fight elsewhere, officers said Wednesday. Iraqi and U.S. commanders had been warning for weeks that they may invade Fallujah to re-establish government control.

"That's probably why we've been able to move as fast as we have," said one officer from the Army's 1st Cavalry Division, who asked not to be named.

If reports that most gunmen fled the city are true, it indicated that while the new offensive may cost the insurgency its strongest fighters, the fighters will seek to continue their campaign of violence elsewhere.

In Mosul, the curfew came after a series

of clashes including two attacks against American military convoys. U.S. Capt. Angela Bowman said. A foreign contractor was killed in one of the attacks, Bowman said, without giving details.

In Baghdad — where Alawi's time imposed a nighttime curfew for the first time in a year — a car bomb exploded, targeting a police patrol in the eastern Zaytoonah neighborhood. Ten people were killed and 15 others wounded, police officer Qahtan Juwayh said.

Six people were killed and four others wounded during clashes between U.S. soldiers and insurgents in Latifiyah, south of Baghdad. A bomb killed six Iraqi soldiers in northern Iraq.

A U.S. soldier was killed and another wounded by a roadside bomb north of Baghdad on Wednesday, and another was killed by a gun attack on a patrol in Baghdad, the military said. At least 14 Americans have been killed in attacks outside Fallujah since Monday.

Contributing to this report were Stars and Stripes' Lisa Burgess, Associated Press writers Jim Krane near Fallujah, and Tim Tran, Samer N. Yazoubi, Marwan Fari, Sabah Jerges, Katarina Kratavac and Maggie Michael in Baghdad.

U.S. deaths in Iraq

The Associated Press

As of Tuesday, at least 1,145 members of the U.S. military have died since the beginning of the Iraq war in March 2003, according to an Associated Press count. At least 877 died as a result of hostile action, the Defense Department said. The figures include three military civilians.

The AP count is higher than the Defense Department's tally, last updated at 10 a.m. Tuesday.

British military has reported 74 deaths; Italy, 19; Poland, 13; Spain, 11; Ukraine, nine; Bulgaria, seven; Slovakia, three; Estonia, Thailand and the Netherlands, two each; and Denmark, El Salvador, Hungary and Latvia have reported one death each.

Since May 1, 2003, when President Bush declared that major combat operations in Iraq had ended, 1,007 U.S. military members have died, according to AP's count. That includes at least 768 deaths resulting from hostile action, according to the military's numbers.

The latest deaths reported by the military:

■ Two soldiers were killed Tuesday in a mortar attack in Mosul, Iraq.

■ Three soldiers were killed Tuesday in combat in Fallujah, Iraq.

The latest identifications reported by the military:

■ Marine Staff Sgt. David G. Ries, 29, Clark, Wash., killed Monday when his vehicle hit an explosive west of Fallujah; assigned to the Marine Corps Reserve, 6th Engineer Support Battalion, 4th Force Service Support Group, Portland, Ore.

■ Army Spc. Quoc Binh Tran, 26, Mission Viejo, Calif., killed Sunday when an explosive detonated near his convoy in Baghdad; assigned to the National Guard, 181st Support Battalion, San Bernardino, Calif.

■ Army Spc. Bryan L. Freeman, 31, Lumberton, N.J.; killed Monday when he came under fire while searching a vehicle in

Baghdad; assigned to the 443rd Civil Affairs Battalion, Army Reserve, Warwick, R.I.

■ Marine Lance Cpl. Jeffrey Lam, 22, New York, died Monday after a nonhostile vehicle accident in Anbar province, Iraq; assigned to the Marine Corps Reserve, 6th Communications Battalion, 4th Force Service Support Group, New York.

■ Army Staff Sgt. Clinton Lee Wisdom, 39, Atchison, Kan., and Army Staff Sgt. Don A. "Tiger" Troy, Kan.; killed Monday when a car bomb detonated near their convoy in Baghdad; assigned to the National Guard, Battery B, 2nd Battalion, 130th Field Artillery, Horton, Kan.

■ Marine Lance Cpl. Brandon P. Arcey, 22, Belvidere, Ill.; Marine Cpl. Nathaniel T. Hammond, 24, Tulsa, Okla., and Marine Lance Cpl. Shane K. McDonnell, 24, DeForest, Wis.; killed Monday in Baquba province, Iraq; assigned to the Marine Corps Reserve, 2nd Battalion, 24th Marine Regiment, 4th Marine Division, Chicago.



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Insurgents seen fleeing Fallujah prior to attack

BY JIM KRANE
The Associated Press

NEAR FALLUJAH, Iraq — The rapid U.S. advance into Fallujah may be coming at the expense of one of the operation's chief goals: to capture or kill as many insurgents as possible.

Military reports show that small bands of guerrillas, with no more than 15 members each, fled the city in the days and weeks before the U.S. onslaught — which was widely telegraphed by public statements and media reports.

"That's probably why we've been able to move as fast as we have," one officer from the Army's 1st Cavalry Division, who asked not to be named, said Wednesday.

Insurgencies typically succeed by avoiding face-to-face battles with stronger military forces. Instead, they harass troops by attacking their weak points. The guerrillas who fled Fallujah may simply be repositioning themselves to continue the fight elsewhere, the officer said.

The development may mean the world's most powerful army is chasing a smaller band of rebels than previously thought. Before the assault, the 1st Cavalry estimated 1,200 guerrillas were holed up inside the city, with as many as 2,000 more in nearby towns and villages. It is still unclear how many are left inside or have been killed.

U.S. military leaders, including Marine Maj. Gen. Richard Natonski, and Iraqi Prime Minister Ayad Allawi long telegraphed the news that the Fallujah assault was imminent, and insurgents inside the city were able to learn of U.S. troops arriving from elsewhere in Iraq to take positions around the city.

"We gave them so much fair warning that the only ones who stayed had a death wish," the officer said.

There have been unconfirmed reports that two top guerrilla leaders, Sheikh Abdullah al-Janabi and Omar Hadid, have been killed.

But the officer said prominent rebel leaders and fighters are thought to have fled the city, leaving behind defenders willing to fight to the death.

Planners of the assault wanted to prevent a repeat of April's failed Marine siege on Fallujah, where rebels left the city to mount attacks on U.S. bases outside the city and were able to resupply themselves with manpower and weapons.

This time, planners brought in the 1st Cavalry's 2nd Brigade, which cut bridges and choked off routes into and out of the city, trapping fighters inside. The brigade is also chasing insurgents outside Fallujah who are attacking U.S. bases and checkpoints.

There is little evidence that shows guerrillas who fled the city are now mounting attacks on U.S.



AP photos
Above: An armored U.S. military vehicle passes near a burning oil pipeline on the outskirts of Fallujah, Iraq, on Wednesday. Insurgents set off the fire using rocket-propelled grenades Tuesday night. Left: Marines of the 1st Division use a bolt cutter to take off the handcuffs of an Iraqi at a makeshift military hospital in Fallujah on Wednesday. The Iraqi was found after being kidnapped 10 days ago in Baghdad's suburb of Abu Ghraib. The Marines believe he was used as a human shield.

bases or supply lines, the officer said. Instead, attacks have cropped up in Baghdad and elsewhere, he said.

Fallujah's defenses have crumbled faster than U.S. analysts prepared for, with resistance lighter than expected. Intelligence shows fighters' defenses in disarray, command and control networks broken down, with bands of three to five guerrillas fighting for self-preservation rather than as part of a larger force.

U.S. forces have been moving relentlessly south inside Fallujah, through two of the three rings of rebel defenses. The fighters, mainly local Sunni Muslims with a few foreigners among them, are being bottled up in Fallujah's sparse southern neighborhoods. Those neighborhoods were coming under heavy U.S. air bombardment Wednesday.

Some have already managed to surrender. At a prison camp on

the main U.S. base outside Fallujah, troops dropped off more than a dozen men and boys. Most were wearing traditional Arab dishdashas robes, including the black robes the military describes as characteristic of the insurgents.

Inside the prison, Marine guards could be seen escorting Iraqi prisoners in orange jumpsuits, some in leg cuffs, among cells and an intake center where prisoners are photographed, fingerprinted and registered.

Taking city, allaying Phantom fears

BY ROBERT H. REID
The Associated Press

BAGHDAD — Fighting is fierce, or maybe it's not, in "Operation Phantom Fury," or perhaps "Operation Al-Fajr," which was launched this week to wrest control of Fallujah from Iraqi insurgents — or maybe foreign terrorists.

Politics and military necessity have produced widely different pictures of the fighting in Fallujah, which began in earnest Monday night when about 6,500 U.S. soldiers and Marines and an estimated 2,000 Iraqi troops stormed into the insurgent sanctuary.

Anxious to avoid a repeat of the failed siege of the city in April, the U.S. command has thrown about three times as many troops into the fight this time, along with an array of sophisticated weaponry that includes tanks, artillery, AC-130 gunships, attack helicopters and jets.

The fighting in Fallujah, however, presents a major dilemma for the interim Iraqi government, anxious to win legitimacy among the country's nearly 26 million people and to prepare for elections by the end of January.

On the one hand, the government cannot tolerate a situation where a city of 300,000, which sits astride major land routes to Jordan and Syria, is in the hands of gunmen believed responsible for car bombings, kidnappings and beatings.

However, the Iraqi government does not want to appear as "collaborators" with an American force bombarding a Sunni Arab city at a time when the Sunni minority feels threatened by its longtime Shiite rivals. Some, perhaps many, Iraqi Sunnis consider Fallujah the symbol of Iraqi resistance to foreign domination.

Hence, Prime Minister Ayad Allawi, a Shiite, has gone out of his way to present the fight for Fallujah as a largely Iraqi operation — with the Americans playing a supporting role.

Before the battle, American officers privately estimated there were up to 5,000 insurgents in Fallujah — 80 percent of them Iraqis and the rest foreign fighters. Iraqi officials have portrayed the percentage as closer to the reverse, with masses of foreign fighters supported by Saddam Hussein loyalists and criminals.

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VFW holds online auction for scholarship funds

BY LISA BURGESS

Stars and Stripes

ARLINGTON, Va. — The Veterans of Foreign Wars is holding an online auction to raise money for scholarships for the children and grandchildren of veterans, and the items up for grabs are a far cry from the usual gift baskets offered during fund-raisers.

The auction, which is open through Nov. 16 on Mission Fish, eBay's nonprofit counterpart, is offering items including a 2004 World Series ball cap, a commemorative

pin and ticket stubs from this year's series-ending Game 4, with bidding at \$100 as of Wednesday morning.

At \$500, there is an NASCAR trunk lid and spoiler from U.S. Army/VFW's Pontiac, autographed by driver Jerry Nadeau. An official NFL game football autographed by the Kansas City Chiefs' star running back Priest Holmes, meanwhile, has bidding that starts at \$250. But there were no bidders as of early Wednesday.

For people whose pockets may not be quite so deep, there is a 2003 New England Patriots Conference champs T-shirt, with

bidding beginning at \$20. Again, no bidders yet as of Wednesday.

But not all the items are sports-related: the auction has a Lord of the Rings DVD, autographed by Sean Astin, the actor who played Hobbit Samwise Gamgee, with bids at \$100 on Wednesday.

The auction is also offering David McCullough's biography of former President John Adams, autographed by the now-deceased author, with the bid as of Wednesday at \$100.

The three Veterans' Tribute Scholarships are earmarked for children and

grandchildren, ages 16 to 18, of all branches, including active duty, Reserves and National Guard, and are worth \$3,000, \$5,000 or \$10,000. The winners will be chosen based on personal academic achievement, family VFW involvement and their parent's or grandparent's military service.

The deadline for applying for the scholarships is Dec. 31.

To access the auction site, go to: <http://members.ebay.com/vfw/ebaySA-PLD?ViewItemPage&seriesId=vfwone> for more information on scholarships, go to: www.vfw.org.

E-mail Lisa Burgess at: burgess@stripes.osd.mil

Marine, father of quintuplets, goes to funeral for infant girl

BY TARA BURGHART

The Associated Press

CHICAGO — A Marine badly wounded in Iraq just days before his wife gave birth to quintuplets has been reunited with his family, a military official said.

Marine reservist Sgt. Joshua Horton, 28, had been recovering at the National Naval Medical Center in Bethesda, Md., from shrapnel wounds suffered four days before his wife, Taunacya, gave birth Oct. 11.

His right leg in a cast and using a walker, Horton returned to his Owego, Ill., home Wednesday night, Maj. Rick Coates, a spokesman for Horton's Chicago-based unit, the 2nd Battalion 24th Marine Regiment, said Monday. He was "extremely happy to be home," the spokesman said.

On Friday, he attended a funeral for one of the infants, a girl named Addison, who died Oct. 30. "It was a very moving, heartfelt ceremony," Coates said.

Edward Hospital spokesman Brian Davis said the family has requested the hospital not release information on the condition of the surviving babies — two girls and two boys.

Family spokeswoman Chelsea Fife said the infants are "all beautiful and healthy and growing strong," but refused to release more details about them or Horton's return.

The babies were born at 26 weeks, each weighing less than 2 pounds. The Hortons have two other children, 7 and 5.

Horton was already training when they found out his wife was pregnant with quintuplets; she'd been taking fertility drugs. He was injured in an explosion south of Baghdad.

Horton is on 30-day medical leave and can then decide if he needs more recovery time, wants to return to the military or apply for a medical discharge, Coates said.

Gone but not, never forgotten

On Veterans Day, memorials provide comfort to families of Iraq war dead

BY CHELSEA J. CARTER

The Associated Press

Gregg Garvey sat on his porch, clutching a photograph of his son and trying to come to terms with the news the 23-year-old soldier was killed in an ambush in Iraq. The father sat for hours, his cheeks wet with tears, staring at a flagpole in the yard of his Keystone Heights, Fla., home. He wondered how he would survive the overwhelming grief, and how many other parents had the same empty feeling.

Slowly, an image began to come to him, the image of a monument at the base of the flagpole. Then it became clearer: It was a statue of a field cross — a soldier's helmet atop a down-turned M-16. He could see his son's name, Army Sgt. Justin "Hobie" Garvey, on it. Then he could see more monuments with more names.

"I just looked at the picture of Hobie," recalls the 50-year-old father, "and said, 'Honey, we've got a lot of work to do.'"

As the country honors its military men and women this Veterans Day, for many it will be a time to recall the ultimate sacrifice of the more than 1,100 troops killed in Iraq. Across the country,

communities, friends and family members like Gregg Garvey are creating scores of special memorials.

There are streets, buildings, even a ship and a mountain peak renamed for fallen soldiers.

In honor of his son, killed July 20, 2003, near Tal Afar, Iraq, Gregg Garvey has pledged to erect a bronze field cross statue in the hometown of every soldier killed in Iraq.

To date, Garvey's project, www.lesttheybeforgotten.com, has raised enough money through donations and the sales of flags for seven statues, at a cost of \$7,500 each.

"Everybody deals with grief their own way. I'm not going to dwell on what could have been. My son would not have wanted me to feel sorry for myself," Garvey said. "It's going to work. I just hit 50 years old. My grandfather just turned 100 this year. I have another 50 years to get this done."

Across the country, other new memorials appear in varied types, but all stir deep feelings.

In Dartmouth, Mass., outside the town hall, officials dedicated a black granite bench inscribed with the name of Army Sgt. Peter Enos, who was killed in April 2003 in Bagji when his patrol vehicle was hit by a rocket-propelled grenade.



Gregg Garvey of Keystone Heights, Fla., looks at the Iraq war field cross he created after his 23-year-old son Army Sgt. Justin "Hobie" Garvey was killed in the conflict in July 2003. Garvey's goal is to erect bronze field crosses in the hometown of every servicemember killed in Iraq.

Deborah Enos, 59, and her husband, Gerald, attended the dedication of the bench.

She knows one day she will be able to visit the bench without such an overwhelming sense of loss. But for now, she's content to know her son's friends and other family members go there.

The story also can be told in New York City, where a part of 180th Street was named Staff Sgt. Rianan Augusto Tejeda Street for the 26-year-old Marine who was killed during a firefight on April 11, 2003, in Baghdad.

In Tampa, Fla., Lance Cpl. Andrew J. Aviles used to jog with his unit along an access road outside a Marine base; now a portion of the road is named for him. Aviles, 18, was killed on April 7, 2003, when his amphibious vehicle was hit by enemy fire outside of Baghdad.

His family is to attend the dedication of the road on Nov. 17, said his father, Oscar Aviles. But they don't expect it to lessen the pain of their loss.

"The only satisfaction we will have is when we see him in heaven again," the father said.

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IN THE STATES

Bush taps Gonzales as Ashcroft successor

If confirmed, White House counsel would become first Hispanic to be attorney general

BY SCOTT LINDLAW
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Bush named White House counsel Alberto Gonzales as attorney general on Wednesday, picking the administration's most prominent Hispanic for a highly visible post in the war on terror.

"His sharp intellect and sound judgment have helped shape our policies in the war on terror,"

Bush said of the man who has served as the White House's top lawyer over the past four years.

In an announcement in the Roosevelt Room of the White House, Bush outlined Gonzales' personal story — a boy who grew up in a family of eight children in a two-bedroom home in Texas — and now is in line for a Cabinet post.

If confirmed by the Senate, the 49-year-old Texan would become

the first Hispanic to hold the job as the nation's top law enforcement officer.

Even before the formal announcement, one Senate Democratic liberal welcomed the appointment of "someone less polarizing" to the position. "We will have to review his record very carefully, but I can tell you already he's a better candidate than John Ashcroft," said Sen. Charles Schumer, D-N.Y.

Ashcroft announced his resignation on Tuesday, along with Commerce Secretary Don Evans, a Texas friend of the president's.

Gonzales, 49, has long been rumored as a leading candidate for a Supreme Court vacancy if one develops.

Speculation increased after Chief Justice William Rehnquist announced he has thyroid cancer.

Gonzales' career has been linked with Bush for at least a decade, serving as general counsel when Bush was governor of Texas, and then as secretary of state and as a justice on the Texas Supreme Court.

Gonzales has been at the center of developing Bush's positions on balancing civil liberties with waging the war on terrorism — opening the White House counsel to the same line of criticism that has dogged Ashcroft.

For instance, Gonzales publicly defended the administration policy — essentially repudiated by the Supreme Court and now being fought out in the lower courts — of detaining certain terrorism suspects for extended periods without access to lawyers or courts.

He also wrote a controversial February 2002 memo in which Bush claimed the right to waive anti-torture law and international treaties providing protections to prisoners of war. That position drew fire from human rights groups, saying it helped lead to the type of abuses uncovered in the Abu Ghraib prison scandal.

The American Civil Liberties Union said it expected the Senate to closely examine those issues during confirmation hearings. The ACLU said it had no position on Gonzales, but added: "Particu-

lar attention should be devoted to exploring Mr. Gonzales' proposed policies on the constitutionality of the Patriot Act, the Guantanamo Bay detentions, the designation of United States citizens as enemy combatants and reproductive rights."

Some conservatives also have quietly questioned Gonzales' credentials on core social issues. And he once was a partner in a Houston law firm which represented the scandal-ridden energy giant Enron.

But shunting him to Justice would create a vacancy in the White House counsel's office. Bush advisers said two people would be natural for the job. One is White House staff secretary Brett Kavanaugh, a lawyer who has been waiting nearly 16 months for confirmation on the influential U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia. He was also a top lawyer in two cases that dogged the Clinton White House. As associate independent counsel under Kenneth Starr, he worked on both the long-running Whitewater case and the 1998 Clinton impeachment case.

Harriet Miers, a deputy chief of staff who was once Bush's personal lawyer, would be another candidate, one Bush adviser said.

Ashcroft championed many of the most controversial government actions following the Sept. 11 attacks, most notably the USA Patriot Act. It bolstered FBI surveillance powers, increased use of material witness warrants to hold suspects incommunicado for months. When there was a break in a terror case, he was the man at the lectern soberly informing the American people.

Evans, Bush's 2000 campaign chairman and close friend of more than three decades, said he longed to return to Texas.

Bush was considering this year's campaign money man, Mercer Reynolds, for Evans' job. As national finance chairman for the Bush campaign, Reynolds raised more than \$260 million to get him re-elected.



Ashcroft

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Federal Reserve boosts interest rates

WASHINGTON — The Federal Reserve boosted a key short-term interest rate by one-quarter percentage point Wednesday, the fourth increase this year.

It's part of a credit tightening campaign to bring rates back up to more normal levels now that the U.S. economy's recovery from the 2001 recession is more deeply rooted. Fed Chairman Alan Greenspan and his Federal Open Market Committee colleagues — the group that sets interest rate policy in the United States — increased the target for the federal funds rate to 2 percent from 1.75 percent.

The funds rate is the interest banks charge each other on overnight loans and is the Fed's primary tool for influencing economic activity. As a result of the Fed's decision to push up the funds rate, commercial banks were expected to increase by a corresponding amount their prime lending rate for many short-term consumer and business loans to 5 percent from 4.75 percent.

The Fed's current rate-raising campaign began in June with a quarter-point boost, marking the first rate increase in four years. The Fed bumped up rates again by a quarter-point in August and September and then once more on Wednesday.

From The Associated Press

Veterans Day ★ November 11, 2004

Ashcroft seeks to overturn assisted suicide law

BY BRAD CAIN

The Associated Press

SALEM, Ore. — Attorney General John Ashcroft drew the ire of Oregon officials with one of his last official acts: Asking the U.S. Supreme Court to set aside the state's — and nation's only — assisted-suicide law.

Gov. Ted Kulongoski argued Tuesday that Oregon voters have twice endorsed the right of terminally ill patients to die more quickly and that "it's past time for this administration to focus on ways to work with Oregon — not against us."

Ashcroft's challenge had been expected since May, when a lower court ruled the federal government could not punish Oregon doctors who prescribed lethal doses of federally controlled drugs.

While not as prominent as abortion, the issue is an important one for conservative Christians, who helped President Bush win a second term last year. The government waited until Tuesday, the final day possible, to file paperwork at the high court.

Oregon's law, known as the Death With Dignity Act, lets patients with less than six months to live request a lethal dose of drugs after two doctors confirm the diagnosis and determine the person's mental competence to make the request.

A co-author of Oregon's law, Portland attorney Eli Stutsman, said Ashcroft's appeal to the Supreme Court is "politically inspired" and he said he is optimistic the court won't even agree to hear the case.

"We have won this case on the legal issues," Stutsman said. "We will continue to win it on legal issues," Stutsman

said. "The strength of our legal position is that the states have always regulated the practice of medicine."

Since 1998 more than 170 people have used Oregon's assisted suicide law to end their lives. The Bush administration has argued that assisted suicide is not a "legitimate medical purpose" and that doctors take an oath to heal patients, not help them die.

"Killing patients is not medical care," said James Bopp, a Right-to-Life lawyer based in Terre Haute, Ind. "What you have in Oregon is the equivalent of putting a gun to a patient's head and pulling the trigger. They just use drugs to do it."

The Supreme Court probably will decide early next year whether it will review the case. The court has been hearing cases now with eight members, because Chief Justice William H. Rehnquist is under treatment for thyroid cancer.

The high court has dealt with right-to-die cases before. Justices held in 1997 that while Americans have no constitutional right to assisted suicide, states may decide the issue for themselves. And in 1990, the court ruled that terminally ill people can refuse life-sustaining medical treatment.

Eric Rakowski, a law professor at the University of California at Berkeley, said Ashcroft's appeal appears to be more of a statement of solidarity with religious conservatives than a serious legal challenge.

"Maybe it's just a matter of showing them that this administration takes their interests to heart, knowing that the appeal is unlikely to get anywhere," Rakowski said.

Supreme Court rules DUI not cause to deport immigrant

BY HOPE YEN

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — A drunken driving accident is not a "crime of violence" allowing the government to deport a permanent resident, the Supreme Court ruled Tuesday in the first of three cases this term delineating the rights of immigrants.

In an 11-page opinion by ailing Chief Justice William H. Rehnquist, the court ruled unanimously in favor of Josue Leocal, a Florida man who challenged his deportation to Haiti in 2002 after pleading guilty to a felony charge of drunken driving.

The 11th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals ruled that the DUI offense was a "crime of violence" under the immigration statute because he had injured others. Leocal drove through a flashing red light and struck another car, injuring two people in that car.

The Supreme Court dis-

agreed. It said the statute suggests the felony offense must require intent in causing harm — not mere negligence as in Leocal's case — before immigrants are subject to the drastic consequence of deportation.

"Drunk driving is a nationwide problem, as evidenced by the efforts of legislatures to prohibit such conduct and impose appropriate remedies," Rehnquist wrote. "But this fact does not warrant our shoehorning it into statutory sections where it does not fit."

The American Civil Liberties Union, which filed a friend-of-the-court brief, hailed the ruling as a victory for immigrants.

Later this term, the court will rule on two other immigration cases in which the government argues it should have wide discretion to send back or indefinitely detain foreigners in a post-Sept. 11 world of heightened terror threats.



The Peterson family, including Lee Peterson, Scott Peterson's father, second from left, and Scott Peterson's sister Susan Caudillo, leave the courthouse in Redwood City, Calif., Tuesday.

Judge in Peterson trial removes jury foreman

BY BRIAN SKOLOFF

The Associated Press

REDWOOD CITY, Calif. — The judge in the Scott Peterson murder trial removed the foreman from the jury Wednesday, the second time in two days a juror has been sent home.

The judge did not disclose why he removed juror No. 5, a man in his mid-30s who has both medical and law degrees. The juror was replaced by an alternate whose son-in-law now owns a restaurant that Scott and Laci Peterson themselves once owned.

Judge Alfred A. Deluchi told the new panel to start all over with their deliberations — for the second day in a row.

"You must therefore set aside

all past deliberations and begin deliberating anew," he said Wednesday.

The dismissal marks the third time a juror has been removed in the high-profile murder case.

On Tuesday, a juror was removed after reportedly doing her own research on the case — a violation of court rules. In June, a juror was dismissed after he was spotted talking to Laci Peterson's brother.

The trial started with six alternates, leaving three left.

Jury selection began in March, and the panel started deliberations last week after hearing five months of testimony over whether Peterson, 32, killed his pregnant wife on or around Christmas Eve 2002 and dumped her weightless body in San Francisco Bay.

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Confessed serial killer on trial for stabbing death

BY SARAH KARUSH

The Associated Press

PONTIAC, Mich. — Helen Dutcher was "literally butchered alive" in a crime that fit the pattern used by a man who confessed in 1982 to 13 slayings, the lead prosecutor in his murder trial told jurors.

But Coral Eugene Watts' defense attorney told jurors that his client's past admissions shouldn't sway them to convict him in the 36-year-old's death.

The jury heard opening statements Tuesday in the trial of Watts, who is charged with murder in the 1979 stabbing death of Dutcher in the Detroit suburb of Ferndale. If convicted, Watts, 51, faces a mandatory life sentence without the possibility of parole.

"At the end of this trial, you will leave here a changed person because you will understand that evil can wear a human face," Donna Pendergast, an assistant state attorney general, told jurors in her opening statement.

Pendergast showed the jury photos of the 13 other women Watts confessed to killing. She said the prosecution's main witness, Joseph Foy, who says he saw the killing from his back porch, always has given a consistent description.

But defense attorney Ronald Kaplovitz told the jurors that the evidence they would hear was full of "inconsistencies and uncertainties." And he suggested that they should acquit Watts despite his confessions in the other slayings, which were expected to be introduced into evidence during the trial.

Watts confessed to the other killings in a deal with Texas prosecutors that allowed him to plead guilty to a lesser charge of burglary with intent to murder if he helped officials solve his crimes. He initially was expected to serve his full 60-year sentence, but mandatory release laws and an appeals ruling lopped more than 35 years off his sentence. He now is set to go free in April 2006.

In testimony Tuesday, Kanu Virani, deputy chief medical examiner in Oakland County, described Dutcher's 12 stab wounds as Pendergast displayed blow-up autopsy photos. Virani said Dutcher had three stab wounds that punctured the heart and four that punctured the lungs. Her jugular vein also was slashed.



Confessed serial killer Coral Eugene Watts, right, and his attorney Ronald Kaplovitz listen as opening arguments begin in Watts' murder trial in Pontiac, Mich., on Tuesday.

Concerns aired over runway safety

Los Angeles Times

WASHINGTON — Controllers at Los Angeles International Airport were stunned this summer when an arriving jumbo jet narrowly missed a domestic flight cleared to take off on the same runway, a reconstruction showed Tuesday.

"That was close!" said an unidentified voice on the tower radio frequency, seconds after an Asiana Airlines Boeing 747, arriving from South Korea, roared over a Southwest Airlines Boeing

737 preparing to depart for Albuquerque on Aug. 19, according to tapes released by the National Transportation Safety Board.

Such potentially catastrophic incidents are not being fully reported to the Federal Aviation Administration, safety board members warned during Tuesday's NTSB hearing. The board said its staff found out about the LAX incident from the Southwest Airlines pilot, not from the FAA.

"The fact that this high-visibility close call was not reported

suggests there are deeper reporting problems," board member Deborah A.P. Hersman said.

Board members and staff investigators said they doubted the FAA's assurance that the nation's runways were slowly but surely growing safer.

"We believe the numbers of serious incidents are down because of a lack of reporting," said Sandy Rowlett, an NTSB investigator. She said the board was aware of two other recent incidents at the Cincinnati and Baltimore airports.

Chesney named CMA entertainer of the year

BY JOHN GEROME

The Associated Press

NASHVILLE, Tennessee — Kenny Chesney waited 12 years to win a Country Music Association award — but had less than two minutes to give his acceptance speech.

Chesney won album of the year honors Tuesday for "When the Sun Goes Down," and, at the end of the night, received the coveted entertainer of the year award.

Shortly into his speech, music signaled his time was up during the live broadcast. Chesney protested, but the cameras cut away and the show ended.

Chesney was gracious about it afterward. He said he wanted to convey that artists like Conway Twitty and George Strait had inspired him.

"For a kid in East Tennessee ... they made me think there was something else out there for me," he said.

Tim McGraw's "Live Like You Were Dying" won song of the year and single of the year.

Written by Tim Nichols and Craig Wiseman, "Live Like You Were Dying" spent eight weeks at No. 1.

The song, about living life to its fullest, was special for McGraw, who lost his father, former New York Mets and Philadelphia Phillies relief pitcher Tug McGraw, to cancer in January.

Other winners included Keith Urban, Gretchen Wilson, Brad Paisley, Martina McBride and Rascal Flatts.

"Whiskey Lullaby," a duet recorded by Paisley and Alison Krauss, won for musical event of the year and music video of the year. It's a dark tale about a woman who breaks a man's heart, watches him drink himself to death and then is so guilt-stricken that she too "put that bottle to her head and pulled the trigger."

In one of the evening's surprises, Urban won the male vocalist award. He was up against veterans Alan Jackson, George Strait, Toby Keith and Chesney.

"I thought I was just rounding out the category," Urban said. Keith had six nominations for the Country Music Association awards, but was shut out for the second straight year.



Kenny Chesney displays his awards at the Country Music Association Awards show on Tuesday in Nashville, Tenn.

"I have the worst record in the history of the CMA," Keith said recently.

Jackson, who led all nominees for the ceremony with seven, also left empty handed.

McBride won female vocalist of the year, her fourth in that category and third in a row. Wilson, who has sold 3 million copies of her debut album, "Here for the Party," won the Horizon Award for best new artist. Rascal Flatts won the vocal group award for the second consecutive year.

"It's overwhelming," said bass player Jay DeMarcus. "We had big hopes and aspirations when we started out in this business ... to have something like this in hand at the end of the day sort of gives validity to what you want to accomplish."

Singer-songwriter Kris Kristofferson was inducted into the Country Hall of Fame. Kristofferson, who has been outspoken during his career on political and social issues, sang "Me and Bobby McGee." He sang made famous by Janis Joplin.

He thanked the late Johnny and June Cash "for endorsing me back when nobody knew me and defending me later when everybody did and for standing up for truth and justice and human rights."

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IN THE WORLD

Arafat funeral, succession plans speed up

BY LARA SUKHITIAN
The Associated Press

CLAMART, France — A top Islamic cleric read passages from the Quran at Yasser Arafat's hospital bedside Wednesday, with the comatose Palestinian leader in what an aide called the "final phase" of his life.

The Palestinian foreign minister, Nabil Shaath, said the 75-year-old Arafat is suffering from kidney and liver failure.

Arafat's brain is working only partially because of bleeding, and all his organs except for heart and lungs "are not functioning well," Shaath said in Ramallah, West Bank.

As Arafat's condition deteriorated, aides made plans to fly his body to Cairo for a funeral, then to his Ramallah headquarters.

The Muslim cleric, Taissir Beyd Tamimi, rushed to Paris to be with the Palestinian leader, who is in critical condition at the Percy Military Training Hospital, connected to a respirator and a feeding tube.

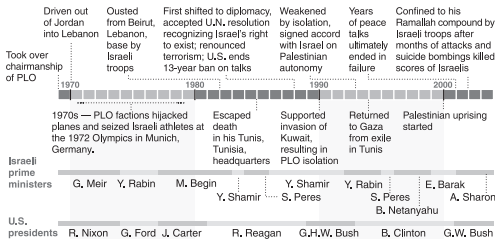
"I prayed to God for his recovery," said Tamimi, who said he was with Arafat for more than an hour, reciting from the Muslim holy book. Tamimi said his close friend was very sick, "but he is still alive."

Tamimi said life support machines would not be turned off "as long as there are signs of life in the body of the president," he said.

The Palestinian envoy to France, Leila Shahid, told France-Info that Arafat was "in a

Arafat: A constant figure through the decades

Yasser Arafat has led the Palestinian people for nearly four decades and is the only leader most of them have ever known. Since his creation of the Fatah guerrilla movement in 1965 — which later became the core group of the Palestinian Liberation Organization — the world has seen him in various guises as terrorist, exile, statesman and peacemaker.



SOURCE: 2004 World Almanac; Israel Ministry of Foreign Affairs

deep coma" Wednesday, but added there was a "complication in the state of all of his vital organs."

At a news conference in Ramallah late Tuesday, Palestinian Cabinet minister Saeb Erekat said doctors were trying to relieve bleeding from a severe brain hemorrhage, which can cause brain damage.

Shahid said doctors were fighting to keep Arafat alive. The physicians "are doing everything, in the intensive care unit, to try to give him his chances," she said.

Palestinian leaders, meanwhile, decided that when the time comes, they would bury Arafat at his sandbagged West Bank headquarters, known as the Muqata, in Ramallah, and turn it into a shrine, defusing a potential conflict with Israel by dropping a demand for a Jerusalem burial. The Israeli Cabinet approved that plan Wednesday.

Israel had been pushing for a Gaza burial, but the Palestinians wanted Jerusalem. Palestinians see Arafat's Ramallah headquarters — his virtual prison for the last three years — as a symbol of his resistance. Burial there is less politically sensitive for Israel.

In Ramallah, bulldozers pushed aside rubble and hauled away piles of wrecked cars to prepare the compound for Arafat's burial.

Palestinian leaders accepted an offer from Egypt to host the main funeral service in Cairo before Arafat is buried in Ramallah.

The service could be held at Cairo's international airport, security officials in Egypt said. That would allow Arab leaders to attend without dealing with Israel, which controls access to the Palestinian territories.

AP writer Mohammed Daraghmah in Ramallah, West Bank, contributed to this story.

Temporary Palestinian leader named

RAMALLAH, West Bank — Palestinian leaders decided Wednesday that Parliament Speaker Raufi Fattouh will take over as temporary Palestinian Authority president after Yasser Arafat's death, despite concern that the bland former backbencher would not be up to the job.

Fattouh, 55, was born in the village of Burka, in what is now Israel, and grew up in the Rafah refugee camp in Gaza. He left

Gaza for studies abroad in the 1960s, joined Fatah in 1968 and returned from exile in 1994, along with Arafat and other Palestinian officials.

In the first Palestinian general elections in 1996, he was elected to the parliament on a Fatah slate. In 2003, he was appointed agriculture minister, and a year later was chosen speaker, replacing Qureia who became prime minister.

Fattouh is a mild-mannered Fatah activist, and did not rise to prominence in parliament. He was chosen as speaker as a compromise candidate.

— The Associated Press



Fattouh

Foreigners in Ivory Coast evacuated

BY PAULINE BAX
The Associated Press

ABIDJAN, Ivory Coast — France and the United Nations on Wednesday began evacuating thousands of French and other expatriates trapped at homes, U.N. offices and a French military base during days of anti-French rampages in the West African nation.

The first flight of what were expected to be days of shuttles to Europe and neighboring African countries pulled off the tarmac at Wednesday afternoon, an Air France Boeing 777 carrying 240 evacuees to Paris.

As state television aired fiery calls to mobilize against the French, French troops combed Ivory Coast's largest city to rescue foreigners for evacuation, sending buses to pluck some French off the banks of Abidjan's lagoons.

"The government is pushing to kill white people — not just the French, all white people," said Marie Noel Mion, rescued by French troops in a wooden boat at daybreak Wednesday and waiting with hundreds of others at Abidjan's airport for the first flight out.

In Paris, France's Cabinet approved a decree requisitioning commercial aircraft to fly out French citizens when it was shaping up as one of the largest evacuations from Africa since the independence era.

France alone expected to fly out between 4,000 to 8,000 of its citizens from across Ivory Coast, a French official said — potentially the majority of the 14,000 French still in the former French colony. "It is on a voluntary basis. We are not going to evacuate all our French citizens because they are too many," the official speaking on condition of anonymity.

Violence erupted in Ivory Coast, the world's top cocoa producer and regional economic powerhouse, on Saturday after government warplanes killed nine French peacekeepers and an American aid worker in an airstrike on the rebel-held north.

France wiped out the nation's newly built-up air force on the tarmac in retaliation, sparking a violent uprising against the French, including looting, burning and attacks by loyalist youths.

The turmoil has claimed at least 27 lives and wounded more than 900.



An Ivory Coast resident pulls her suitcase up the steps Wednesday at the U.N. base in Abidjan. Ivory Coast, during an evacuation sparked by anti-foreigner rampages in Ivory Coast's largest city.

Dutch forces storm house in terror raid

The Associated Press

THE HAGUE, Netherlands — Police raided a house in The Hague on Wednesday, ending a 15-hour standoff in which one suspect and three officers were wounded, authorities said. Two suspected terrorists were arrested in the raid and a third was detained in another city.

The standoff began when special forces tried to storm the house but aborted the effort after suspects threw a hand grenade, injuring the three officers, Police Chief Gerard Bourlymore said. It ended with a second raid shortly before dark.

Police sealed off the area while they searched the building for explosives.

Bowman said two suspects were arrested in the standoff. A third was detained in the city of Utrecht in a related investigation, according to the national prosecutor's office.

Hague City Prosecutor Han Moraal earlier said the raids were part of a "continuing investigation into terrorism," but he would not confirm if the case was related to the Nov. 2 killing of filmmaker Theo van Gogh by an alleged Islamic radical.

Tensions have been high in the Netherlands since Van Gogh's murder in Amsterdam eight days ago, with more than a dozen arson attacks against churches and mosques.

EU sees faster euro transition for new nations

The Associated Press

BRUSSELS, Belgium — The European Union's head office on Wednesday predicted a smooth transition to the euro in the 10 new EU nations that are hoping to adopt by 2010 the currency that is already shared by Germany,

France and 10 other nations.

"The introduction of the euro in the new countries should be faster and even smoother than in the current euro-zone members," said a statement from the European Commission.

It cited a survey carried out in September that showed over 50

percent of citizens in the 10 nations were already familiar with the euro — either through travel to euro-zone nations or contact with euro-spending visitors in their homelands.

Estonia, Cyprus, Lithuania and Slovenia aim to swap their currencies for the euro in 2007. Poland,

Hungary, the Czech Republic, Latvia, Malta and Slovakia all hope to do so later this decade. All 10 nations joined the EU on May 1.

Despite their citizens' familiarity with the new money, EU Economic and Monetary Affairs Commissioner Joaquín Almunia said authorities had to work hard on

the practical preparations for the changeover and on ensuring public acceptance of the euro.

"Although the euro is already an established and successful currency, preparations for its adoption in the new member states should not be underestimated or delayed," Almunia said.

Russian protesters continue standoff at official's office

BY SERGEI VENYAVSKIY

The Associated Press

ROSTOV-ON-DON, Russia — Elderly protesters continued their seizure of a regional president's office in southern Russia on Wednesday, demanding his resignation over a multiple slaying that his former son-in-law has been linked to, authorities said.

President Mustafa Batдыеv refused to go and it was unclear how the standoff, which started Tuesday, in the Karachayevo-Cherkesskiya region could end. Igor Kovalyov, spokesman for the Interior Ministry's southern Russian headquarters, said police did not plan to use force against the protesters, who were primarily relatives of the slaying victims.

"I am not planning to go anywhere. I am working," Batдыеv said, according to the Interfax news agency, adding that he was using another office while "mine is occupied."



RTR RUSSIAN CHANNEL/AP

Protesters storm the government building in Cherkessk, the capital of Karachayevo-Cherkesskiya region on Tuesday.

The building's seizure followed weeks of protests over the disappearance of seven shareholders in a chemical company. The men's charred remains were discovered in a common grave Monday, and prosecutors believe they were killed on Oct. 10 when they were summoned to a meeting at a cottage belonging to Ali Kaitov, Batдыеv's son-in-law.

Russia nixes measure to ban public beer drinking

The Associated Press

MOSCOW — The upper house of the Russian parliament on Wednesday rejected a bill that would have banned public beer consumption.

The bill already had been approved by the lower house of parliament, the State Duma, which is dominated by the pro-Kremlin United Russia party. The Federation Council, the upper house, which rarely challenges the Kremlin, had been widely expected to pass the measure.

However, the measure was rejected by a 40-73 vote, the Federation Council press service said.

Public consumption of beer is ubiquitous in Russia, where pedestrians frequently stroll with a

bottle in hand and subway cars generally have at least one tippler aboard.

Drinking vodka and hard alcohol in public is already illegal in Russia, and officials in the Duma had said the new legislation was appropriate given recent terrorist attacks and heightened security measures aimed at protecting the public.

Brewers, however, called the measure a witch hunt and blamed the country's powerful vodka industry, which has seen its market share decline as beer quality and availability improves.

A bill banning beer commercials between 7 a.m. and 10 p.m. went into effect in September. A prohibition on the use of people and animals in beer ads will take effect next year.

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OPINION

Media often let the terrorists dictate terms

BY DANIEL MANDEL

Do the media give aid and comfort to terrorists by giving their violence maximum exposure and impact at times while sanitizing the perpetrators and tainting their victims at others? It is standard procedure for many media outlets to describe the perpetrators of terrorist acts — the premeditated slaughter of civilians — with a range of euphemisms, “militants” being the most common.

Thus, The New York Times can headline a report on the killing of a hostage as “Iraq Militants Said to Behold a Truck Driver From Bulgaria.” Similarly, terrorists killed in a military strike can be described in another as “Israeli Airstrike Kills 2 Hamas Militants, Wounds 6 Bystanders.” Sometimes words are substituted with government statements about “wanted terrorists” being transformed into “wanted militants.”

Conversely, highly judgmental language is used when describing counterterrorism: “murder” and “assassination” have been popular when describing Israeli targeting of terrorist chiefs, bombers and dispatchers, even when no civilians are harmed.

How to justify these choices? Media organizations allege professional objectivity. The Reuters news agency has argued that “terrorists” is an “emotive term” becoming to “impartial journalists.” The Canadian Broadcasting Corp. takes a similar view. “Terrorist” is a subjective term, while “militant” is an objective one.

These rationalizations are based on the assumption, willful or otherwise, that violence committed on behalf of an approved cause

cannot be terrorist. The platitude is well known to everyone: “One man’s terrorist is another’s freedom fighter.”

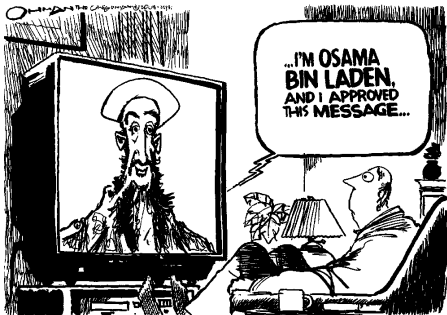
In fact, being a freedom fighter, however defined, does not foreclose on the possibility that one is a terrorist. The Israeli terrorism scholar Boaz Ganor has put it well: “When you deliberately choose to attack civilians, you cannot say any more, I am not a terrorist because I am a freedom fighter. Maybe you are a freedom fighter, but you are also definitely a terrorist.”

Why, therefore, do the media persist in sanitizing terrorism and tainting counterterrorism? Out of bias and fear. Contrary to what is normally claimed, a bias is at work in which the nature of the attacks matters less than the identity of the parties carrying them out. This illegitimate practice started with the media disfavoring Israel and favoring Palestinians. It has not stopped there.

The same media outlets that indulge this practice also defend it vigorously. Thus, when CanWest’s largest newspaper chain, altered news agency copy to restore the word “terrorists” to reports describing terrorist acts, Reuters, a leading purveyor of euphemistic reportage on terror, complained.

Revealingly, the global managing editor for Reuters, David Schlesinger, observed that naming terrorists, such as could “endanger its reporters in volatile areas.” As journalist Jonathan Tobin wryly observed, “Reuters is worried that the people it won’t call terrorists will terrorize them.” The resultant bias dictates a spurious moral neutralism that is the mark of terrorist acts.

Without TV or the Internet, the hideous



broadcasting of appeals from innocent hostages of Iraqi terrorists, followed by their televised merciless beheadings, could not succeed as a tactic to wage psychological warfare against the West. This, of course, redoubles pressure on governments to concede to blackmail and almost ensures the murder of hostages when they don't.

Far from reviewing gravely the journalistic ethics involved, media outlets, particularly in Europe, compete for the distinction of being the first to break the gruesome images of exhibition killings. This only ensures the

taking of more hostages and thus the taking of more innocent lives.

Clearly, the media fail in their mission when they allege superior detachment while in reality they become obliging accomplices of terrorists. Terrorists might well continue killing, whatever the nature of the reportage. But they should receive no help from journalists. And if they do, the media cannot expect immunity from criticism.

Daniel Mandel is associate director of the Middle East Forum in Philadelphia and the author of “H.V. Ewert and the Establishment: The Undercover Zionist.” This column first appeared in The (Baltimore) Sun.

An age in which ‘retirement’ has shades of gray

Sometime next year, the Supreme Court justices (average age: 70) will rule on an age-discrimination case that stands to make even this conservative-leaning court appear rather bleeding-hearted liberal, at least in one regard.

Bonnie Erbe



The justices heard arguments in a case last week weighing how much protection from job bias older workers are entitled to under law. The case was brought by a group of Jackson, Miss., police officers alleging bias when their younger counterparts received more-generous raises.

Being, er, young themselves, even the justices could empathize with the plight of older police workers. Decidedly less sympathetic are businesses, which, according to analysts, are somewhat aflutter over this case.

If the plaintiffs succeed, analysts foresee a flood of lawsuits any time layoffs or cutbacks disproportionately affect older workers.

While asking the court to limit this type of lawsuits, defense lawyer Glen Nager acted perhaps a bit too honestly and openly. As he differentiated age-discrimination claims from race and gender bias cases, he was quoted by The Boston Globe as telling the justices, “It’s painful, (considering the justices’ ages) to point out that older employees have different mental and physical abilities.”

The Globe’s recount went on, “The justices, whose average age is 70, seemed unamused. Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg reminded the Washington lawyer that artists like the composer Giuseppe Verdi did their

best work in their 70s. The court members have lifetime appointments and total job security. Many of them appeared concerned about shutting courts to people penalized at work because of their age.”

This is one instance in which, for the moment, market forces can and will prevail. As baby boomers (the largest-ever generation of Americans) begin to reach retirement, this nation’s work force faces the largest “brain drain” in U.S. history. It will ever have encountered in U.S. history.

Census data show that, a mere six years from now, 80 million baby boomers will begin to reach age 65. Today, in 33 states older than 65. Two years from now the median age of America’s work force will rise to 40.6, up from 38 in the early 1960s.

Highly skilled industries such as medical technology, nursing and manufacturing already are facing a tremendous loss of expertise from downsizing, coupled with a rapidly

aging work force. Other industries soon will follow.

Three factors — relatively low unemployment (in historic terms), this tsunami of baby boomers rolling toward retirement and increased demands by younger workers for flexibility in employment — have combined to spark the beginning of a demographic shift known as phased retirement. While the number of corporations allowing workers to phase into and through retirement is still small, more corporations are letting older workers ease into retirement and in so doing work well beyond the average retirement age of 65-70.

Universities provide the model as they launched the phased retirement revolution before corporations. This change has taken place over the past two decades, as not only preretirement workers, but also young parents just launching their careers, have sought flexible hours, job-sharing and tele-

commuting. According to the Employee Benefits Research Institute, such major corporations as ExxonMobil and Marriott have begun offering phased retirement plans allowing some employees to continue working part time well beyond the traditional retirement age.

Does this mean the older police in Jackson were not discriminated against? Absolutely not. It does mean market forces may cure society of age bias well before the courts can do it. And this case makes another very important point.

If indeed the justices rule in favor of the senior police officers, it shows the value of understanding where an aggrieved party is “coming from.” This is a court that has less sympathy for race- and gender-bias claims, but seems to completely “get it” when it comes to claims of age discrimination.

Bonnie Erbe, host of the PBS program “To the Contrary,” writes this column for Scripps Howard News Service.

Mallard Fillmore

BY BRUCE TINSLEY



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Carnival catastrophe

MA BOSTON — The state Department of Public Safety stood by its findings in a fatal carnival accident after the owners of the carnival ride issued a blistering attack, questioning the qualifications of safety officials and calling their performance "dismal."

Jaro Amusements Inc. released the statement Sunday in response to the department's final report on the Sept. 19 accident at St. Mary's Parish in Shrewsbury, in which a car on the Sizzler ride broke apart in midair, killing one man and injuring two other people.

Katie Ford, a spokeswoman for the department, said Monday that its investigation "thoroughly and accurately assessed" the accident and attributed appropriate responsibility for the accident to the three mechanical problems with the ride.

Taking their story back

NC BOLIVIA — Prosecutors threw out charges against a man who served 20 years in prison for the sexual molestation of two girls who recanted their allegations.

The victims, who were 4 and 6 when they made the charges, testified that they falsely accused the man under pressure from their grandmother because she wanted to protect the real abuser — a cousin of the girls.

Sylvester Smith, 53, was serving two consecutive life sentences after being convicted in 1984. At the time, he was the boyfriend of one of the girls' mothers and was living with them.

Prosecutor Rex Gore said he will not pursue charges against the cousin, who was 9 at the time, because he was so young. He is serving a life sentence in state prison for first-degree murder, Gore said.

Fire injures three

TX HOUSTON — A tow-hotheaded blaze injured a firefighter and at least two residents, authorities say.

Neighbors told law officers they heard a loud explosion about 4:30 a.m. at the two-story home in southeast Houston. Emergency crews discovered the fire when they responded to the report.

A resident was seriously burned, said firefighters. They said one or two other residents were taken to hospitals for treatment of smoke inhalation.

The injured firefighter suffered less serious burns, according to the Houston Chronicle's online edition.

Tax killing

FL WEST PALM BEACH — A taxi driver killed a drunken passenger when the man refused to get out of his cab, police said.

Robert Lee Smiley Jr. was charged with first-degree murder and was being held without bail.

The victim, Jimmie Morningstar, became heavily intoxicated at a bar and started a scuffle, and a bouncer paid Smiley \$10 to drive Morningstar home.

Outside Morningstar's home, two witnesses to officers say, he began yelling at Morningstar to get out of the cab, and one saw Smiley try to pull Morning-



AMERICAN ROUNDUP

star out, then zap him with a stun gun, a police report said.

Major car troubles

CA SONOMA COUNTY — When Claud Gipson-Reynolds got his fire truck stuck in the mud along a rural road, he did what anyone would naturally do. He called for a tow truck on the engine's radio.

The problem was, the intoxicated Gipson-Reynolds had just stolen the fire truck, crashing through the fire station door, to try to push his car out of the same mud.

Instead of a tow truck, dispatchers sent the California Highway Patrol to lock him up.

"I could probably get on that show, 'World's Dumbest Criminals,'" a chastened and sober Gipson-Reynolds, 36, said from his home after bailing out of the jail on charges of vehicle theft and drunken driving. "I was pretty intoxicated at the time. My thinking was not the best."

Libertarian accused

PA PHILADELPHIA — A Libertarian who lost a race for Congress last week has been arrested for evading \$87,000 in federal income taxes.

Arthur L. Farnsworth, 42, had vowed on his Web site that he would "never file an individual federal income-tax return again."

A federal grand jury alleged the electrical engineer failed to pay taxes for three years on more than \$221,000 in income and tried to conceal his earnings by trans-

ferring assets to fraudulent trusts and overseas bank accounts. Farnsworth, treasurer of the Pennsylvania Libertarian Party, drew fewer than 1,000 votes in his bid for a seat in the House of Representatives. Republican Michael Fitzpatrick won the race.

'Band-Aid Bandit'

back

FL TAMPA — For nearly three years, the bank robber with the beer gut and the trademark Band-Aid on his left cheek eluded even the most unconventional efforts to catch him.

The "Band-Aid Bandit" robbed 33 banks in eight counties but always got away, even as frustrated authorities distributed remarkably clear surveillance pictures across the country and promised a \$25,000 reward for information leading to his capture.

Then last fall, the portly robber went into sudden hibernation — taking more than \$300,000 in stolen cash with him.

But authorities say two recent robberies in Tampa Bay have confirmed that, after a 10-month hiatus, the Bandit is back — and as elusive as ever.

Ray Velboom, a special agent supervisor for the Florida Department of Law Enforcement in Tampa, was in the Panhandle helping with hurricane relief efforts when he heard about the Bandit's return; he hit a Wachovia Bank in Hillsborough County on Sept. 21.

The second recent robbery happened Oct. 22 at a Capital City Bank in Spring Hill.

Propane: Terror threat?

CO DENVER — The FBI is investigating the reported thefts of scores of propane cylinders in the Denver area — a crime spree that has raised fears of a terrorist attack.

About 100 cylinders, each containing about 7.8 gallons of the highly flammable gas and weighing about 33 pounds, have been stolen from various businesses since July, FBI agent Monique Kelso said.

"The potential threat is that these propane tanks get into the wrong hands ... and get into the hands of those that are willing to commit a crime on the magnitude of the Oklahoma City bombing or another terrorist attack," Kelso said.

The real Uncle Sam

NH MASON — Yes, Virginia, there is an Uncle Sam, and he lived in New Hampshire.

But the popular "I want you" image of the bearded old man in the top hat had little to do with the real Samuel Wilson.

Nevertheless, Wilson and his story have intrigued a collector from France, who recently bought the 230-year-old Cape Cod where Wilson lived. Jean-Pierre Mouraux plans to live in the house and turn the barn into a museum for his collection — 350 original posters, 150 pieces of sheet music and various other Uncle Sam-themed knick-knacks.

Uncle Sam is the most important symbol. To have that, it's incredible," Mouraux, 62, said of the house.



Cycles in the mist

Skowhegan, Maine.

Albert Diptero uses warm water to clean his motorcycle after a ride in



Strutting his stuff

the air, signaling the rest of his marching band to come to life, during the Historically Black Colleges and Universities Battlefest 2004.

Terrance Sykes, a Virginia State University drum major, jumps into

Checking things out

An egret twists its long neck to get to a hard-to-reach spot on the underside of its wing while preening at South Beach Marina on Hilton Head Island, S.C.



Just kickin' it

Andy States, 4, passes the time kicking his soccer ball at Turlington field in Raeford, N.C.



Pucker up

Derek Goeman gets up close and personal with a 4-year-old bloodhound named Knotty at the West Michigan Harvest Cluster Dog Show in Comstock Park, Mich.



Rainy day

Illinois State University students walk to and from class near a sculpture at the Science Laboratory building.

Football horror

CA VALLEJO — A standout high school football player in Vallejo died at John Muir Medical Center after apparently suffering a serious brain injury during a football game.

Michael Pennerman, 16, collapsed unconscious on the sidelines at Corbus Field in Vallejo after being tackled during the fourth quarter of a game against Rodriguez High School of Fairfield, according to his family and school officials.

The Jesse Bethel High School junior never regained consciousness and was treated by medical personnel at the scene before being taken to Kaiser Permanente Hospital in Vallejo. He was later transferred to John Muir Medical Center in Walnut Creek, where he died, said Tish Busselle, spokeswoman for the Vallejo City Unified School District.

Stabbing search

VT BARRRE — Police are looking for a man who allegedly stabbed a Williamstown teenager.

Edgar Magoon, 17 of Williamstown was stabbed in the chest, police said. Magoon was taken to Central Vermont Medical Center in Berlin shortly before 12:30 a.m.

He was reportedly treated in the hospital's emergency room for a three-inch stab wound and later released.

Police were looking for an 18-year-old man known as "E." The man, who is believed to be from New York, may have ties to the Burlington area, police said.

Fighting for a cause

NC WINSTON-SALEM — A man exonerated after spending 18 years in prison on a murder conviction has started a nonprofit foundation to help investigate inmates' innocence claims.

The Darryl Hunt Project for Freedom and Justice, incorporated in the past week, also will help freed inmates rejoin society.

"I wanted to help other people, to give them a voice, because I know I was fortunate to have people supporting me and speaking up for me," Hunt said. "I was innocent, and I know how hard it is for people who are in prison to have voices on the outside to speak up for them."

Hunt was convicted in the 1984 slaying of Deborah Sykes, a newspaper copy editor in Winston-Salem. DNA evidence proved in 1994 that Hunt was not the man who had raped Sykes, but he was released only this year, after the evidence led authorities to a new suspect they say acted alone in killing Sykes.

Crash landing

MI DETROIT — A small plane crashed in a Detroit neighborhood, engulfing at least two houses in flames, and witnesses said construction workers at the scene helped pull two people out of the wreckage of the aircraft.

The man and woman were taken to a hospital, where they were in serious condition, said De-

troit Fire Commissioner Tyrone Scott.

Police said nobody on the ground was injured.

The roof of one house was completely burned away, and another house appeared to be nearly gutted by fire. The mangled remains of the two-engine Piper Aztec plane rested on the ground across the street from one of the homes.

The plane went down after taking off from Detroit City Airport and clipping a utility pole, Scott said. The cause of the accident was not immediately known.

Gas line explosion

KY LIVEL — A gas line exploded in rural Kentucky, burning four houses and injuring eight people, including an off-duty state trooper who helped others escape, officials said.

There were no immediate reports on what caused the explosion, state Emergency Management Agency spokeswoman Stacy Floden said.

Four people were being evaluated at hospitals in the area, and three others were treated and released.

The gas line is owned by Kentucky-West Virginia Gas and maintained by Mark West Hydrocarbon Inc.

Prisoner's head crushed

UT DRAPER — An inmate was killed accidentally when his head was crushed in a closing cell door, officials said.

John J. Gardner, 27, was peering out his cell at Utah State Prison when an officer about 150 feet away activated the mechanism that closed the cell doors on the block, the sheriff's department said.

The officer was standing behind a wall, where the door mechanism is located, and could not see that Gardner was not completely inside the cell, prison spokesman Jack Ford said.

Ford said when the cell doors are about to be shut, the guard shouts out his intentions and the doors begin closing 10 to 15 seconds later.

eBay inflation case

NY ALBANY — Eight eBay sellers were ordered to pay nearly \$90,000 in restitution and fines after admitting they bid up products online to inflate the prices.

New York Attorney General Eliot Spitzer said more than 120 people will receive restitution in the settlement of the three cases, which wrapped up last week in state courts.

Spokesman Darren Dopp said the cases stemmed from specific complaints, but the office has not conducted a broad investigation of the online auction industry and doesn't know how widespread the practice of phony bidding is.

One buyer, Brad Clarke, 48, of Peachtree City, Ga., already has received a check for \$3,089 after overpaying for a 1999 Jeep Cherokee sport utility vehicle he bought on eBay from a New York seller in 2002.

Stories and photos from wire services

YOUR MONEY

The stores blacklisting frequent retailers

BY ARIANA EUNJUNG CHA

The Washington Post

WASHINGTON — Darlene Salerno considers herself a loyal customer of the Express clothing chain, shelling out roughly \$2,000 for its trendy outfits each year for the past decade. On a recent shopping trip, she bought a tank top, a button-down shirt and some khaki pants, but realized when she got home that she had similar items in her closet.

So a few days later she took them back to the store. She presented the items and her receipt and waited for her money.

Instead, the saleswoman handed her a slip of paper that said "RETURN DECLINED" and told her to call the toll-free number at the bottom for more information. She phoned and was informed her account showed "excessive" returns.

As the holiday shopping season gets into full swing, a number of major retailers — including KB Toys, Sports Authority, according to store personnel — are rolling out electronic systems that weigh the number of returns and exchanges a person has made, the dollar value of the items, and the dates of the transactions to decide whether a customer should be granted another. The systems are designed to catch shoplifters and those who "wardrobe" wear clothes and then return them for a full refund.

But Salerno, a receptionist at a Manhattan financial firm, said she falls under neither category. She returns things often because



Washington Post

Shoppers look for deals while browsing at Dulles Town Center in Northern Virginia recently. Retailers say return fraud has become a major drain on their coffers. As a result, some stores are denying return requests.

she buys things often. She said she feels she has done nothing wrong — the clothes were never worn and the tags were still attached — but that she was treated like a criminal.

"I'm embarrassed to go into the store," said Salerno, 26. "I love their clothes, but I'm afraid to shop there now."

As more personal information is collected into databases, computers have been handed increasing power to make decisions about our everyday lives. The technological systems aim to

solve costly and important business problems, but the proliferation of these "electronic blacklists" has alarmed consumer and privacy advocacy groups who say many databases have incomplete, incorrect or misleading information.

"Technology has made it cheap to do all kinds of surveillance and watch over people and make sure they obey the rules. But when a system makes a mistake, what can you do?" said Richard Smith, an Internet security and privacy consultant.

The Fair Credit Reporting Act of 1970 gives consumers rights concerning information used to make decisions about credit, insurance, employment or other services. Other federal laws impose disclosure requirements on information collected by the medical establishment or the financial services industry. But increasingly, companies are creating databases not envisioned by such regulations, and there is debate about which laws, if any, apply.

Peggy Twigg, assistant director of the Division of Financial Practices of the Federal Trade Commission, which administers the Fair Credit Act, said whether a particular information system is covered by it "depends on the particular facts of each system, and can be a complex legal question."

A spokesman for Limited Brands Inc., which owns the Express stores, declined to answer questions about its computerized return authorization system. Mark Hilinski, a co-founder of the Return Exchange Inc., an Irvine, Calif.-based company that provides technology for the retail chain, said the computer denies returns to 1 percent to 2 percent of customers at most times. He

said even though the database is not subject to the requirements of the Fair Credit Act, his company provides consumers a free copy of the report when they ask and it gives them an opportunity to correct inaccurate data. He added that very few have disputed the information.

"The system is often highly reliable. We have a very fair system to make us aware of any discrepancies they think they found in their report," said Hilinski, senior vice president of sales and marketing.

He said the company's privacy policy prevents him from commenting on individual experiences. The company's criteria for judging returns varies from retailer to retailer and is not disclosed because it might inadvertently aid those who want to abuse the system. It's possible, the company said, that a return rejected one day could come in the next day and be approved.

Hilinski added that the company is not aggregating return data from multiple retailers but that there has been interest from clients who want to share return information with one another.

Return fraud has been a major drain on retailers' coffers. Richard Hollinger, a professor of criminology at the University of Florida in Gainesville, said retailers in 2003 lost nearly \$30 billion, or 1 percent of sales, because of fraud and that roughly half of that may be related to the returns. In the years, scammers have used the Internet to launder the money — people steal merchandise, return it or cut off tags at stores. In some cases, those credits go back by selling them at a discount on eBay or other online auction sites.

Retailers like the Limited are fighting back against such high-tech fraud with high-tech defenses. Sometimes in the spring, consumers and Express workers say, the store began replacing the black placards denoting its return policy to note that it was using the Return Exchange service.

The new signs advertise the "Express Guarantee" and say consumers have up to 60 days to return items. However, the company's return policy also notes that it uses an "industry wide" system to authorize returns and that "under certain circumstances we reserve the right to deny returns."

TUESDAY'S MARKET SUMMARY

INDEXES

High	Low	Week
12,372.41	12,561.50	Dow Jones Industrial
3,586.24	2,743.46	Dow Jones Transportation
22.27	24.26	Dow Jones Utilities
6,524.64	5,522.45	Russell 2000
1,331.32	1,057.27	Amex Index
1,752.82	1,750.82	Nasdaq Composite
1,170.77	1,031.29	S&P 500
545.26	549.42	S&P 400
607.25	515.90	SmallCap 2000
11,455.26	10,958.28	DJ Wilshire 2000

NYSE

Most Active (\$1 or more)	Vol	Most Active (\$1 or more)	Vol
Microsoft	51,479	Apple	4,027
Alcoa	40,026	Boeing	37,410
United Therapeutics	29,198	United Therapeutics	29,198
United Therapeutics	29,198	United Therapeutics	29,198
United Therapeutics	29,198	United Therapeutics	29,198
United Therapeutics	29,198	United Therapeutics	29,198
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United Therapeutics	29,198	United Therapeutics	29,198
United Therapeutics	29,198	United Therapeutics	29,198
United Therapeutics	29,198	United Therapeutics	29,198

AMEX

Most Active (\$1 or more)	Vol	Most Active (\$1 or more)	Vol
Microsoft	51,479	Apple	4,027
Alcoa	40,026	Boeing	37,410
United Therapeutics	29,198	United Therapeutics	29,198
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United Therapeutics	29,198	United Therapeutics	29,198
United Therapeutics	29,198	United Therapeutics	29,198
United Therapeutics	29,198	United Therapeutics	29,198
United Therapeutics	29,198	United Therapeutics	29,198

NASDAQ

Most Active (\$1 or more)	Vol	Most Active (\$1 or more)	Vol
Microsoft	51,479	Apple	4,027
Alcoa	40,026	Boeing	37,410
United Therapeutics	29,198	United Therapeutics	29,198
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United Therapeutics	29,198	United Therapeutics	29,198
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United Therapeutics	29,198	United Therapeutics	29,198
United Therapeutics	29,198	United Therapeutics	29,198
United Therapeutics	29,198	United Therapeutics	29,198

KEY DEFENSE STOCKS

Name	High	Low	Week	% Chg
Advanced Technology	27	27	41.29	+0.6
Airbus	27	27	41.29	+0.6
Boeing	37	37	41.29	+0.6
Computer Sciences	18	18	56.13	+0.1
Electronic Data Systems	4	4	52.62	+0.3
General Dynamics	144	144	105.48	+1.62
Harris	180	180	13.29	+0.1
Lockheed Martin	248	248	17.24	+0.1
Northrop Grumman	180	180	25.42	+0.1
Raytheon	180	180	25.42	+0.1
United Technologies	113	113	113.50	+0.31
Westinghouse	12	12	49.11	+0.1
Comstock				

KEY MUTUAL FUNDS

Name	High	Low	NAV	% Chg
Fidelity Asset Manager	37.38	37.38	37.38	+0.8
Fidelity Asset Manager	37.38	37.38	37.38	+0.8
Fidelity Asset Manager	37.38	37.38	37.38	+0.8
Fidelity Asset Manager	37.38	37.38	37.38	+0.8
Fidelity Asset Manager	37.38	37.38	37.38	+0.8
Fidelity Asset Manager	37.38	37.38	37.38	+0.8
Fidelity Asset Manager	37.38	37.38	37.38	+0.8
Fidelity Asset Manager	37.38	37.38	37.38	+0.8
Fidelity Asset Manager	37.38	37.38	37.38	+0.8
Fidelity Asset Manager	37.38	37.38	37.38	+0.8

EXCHANGE RATES

Military rates	\$1	2003
British pound	49.91	
Japanese yen (Nov. 12)	103.00	
South Korean won (Nov. 11)	1,088.00	
Bahrain (Dinar)	0.3768	
British pound	1.5470	
Canada (Dollar)	1.1979	
Denmark (Krone)	5.8584	
Egypt (Pound)	6.3625	
Euro	1.2903	
Hong Kong (Dollar)	7.7747	
Hungary (Forint)	188.70	
Israel (Shekel)	4.6548	
Japan (Yen)	0.2946	
Kuwait (Dinar)	5.488	
Philippines (Peso)	56.35	
Portugal (Escudo)	200.48	
Singapore (Dollar)	1.6504	
South Korea (Won)	1,015.00	
Switzerland (Franc)	1.111	
Thailand (Baht)	16.6658	
U.S. Dollar	1.4530,0000	

(Military exchange rates are those available to customers at military banking facilities in the country of issuance. Japan, South Korea, Germany, Netherlands and the United Kingdom. For non-currency exchange rates, see the purchasing power parity in Germany, Japan, South Korea, Germany, Netherlands and the United Kingdom. All figures are local currency to one dollar, except for the British pound, which is represented in dollars-to-euro, and the euro, which is dollars-to-euro.)

Credits and Sensibility
Money tip of the day

Job-related tax cuts

CBS MarketWatch

NEW YORK — There are less than two months until Jan. 1, so you'd better act soon to take any tax deductions you can on income earned in 2004.

Here are some job-related deductions that you may be eligible for:

- Job-hunting expenses
- Work clothes and uniforms
- Tools and equipment

In order to claim employee expenses, you must itemize them as miscellaneous deductions on Schedule A of Form 1040. Miscellaneous itemized deductions are subject to a 2 percent limit, which means you can deduct the amount left after you subtract 2 percent of your adjusted gross income from the total.

Be sure to save receipts and other documentation of these expenses for tax time.

Stripes Travel

Timeless Tallinn



SEATTLE TIMES/KRT

Above: The Alexander Nevsky cathedral, a 19th-century Russian Orthodox church, rises above older buildings in the Upper Town district of Tallinn, the capital of the Baltic nation of Estonia.

Above right: A band marches through the main town square of Tallinn. At left in the background is the city's 600-year-old town hall.



City blends medieval and modern life

BY KRISTIN JACKSON
The Seattle Times

On the steps of Alexander Nevsky cathedral, a half-dozen old women begged for money, their creased faces framed by flowered head scarves. They stood quietly, stooped shoulder to stooped shoulder, their eyes beseeching tourists to drop coins in their little brass cups.

A few blocks and a world away, a marching band belted out tunes in Tallinn's cobbled central square, Raskoja Plats, parading in front of its 600-year-old town hall. Scandinavian tourists lounged in outdoor cafes, knocking back beers, or shopped in trendy boutiques to the thump of techno music.

Tallinn, the capital of the Baltic nation of Estonia, has one of the best-preserved medieval town centers in Northern Europe. Its Old Town is a historic enclave of cobbled streets, centuries-old steep-roofed buildings and slender steeples.

Yet Estonia is firmly planted in 21st-century Western Europe. Freed from 50 years of harsh Soviet rule after communism crumbled, Estonia became an independent country in 1991. Its economy has boomed, and

it joined the European Union in May.

The Soviet past lingers, however. Dreary Soviet-style concrete apartment buildings pockmark Tallinn's outskirts. A third of Estonia's 1.5 million people are ethnic Russian, and there's festering resentment against them, with battles over language and citizenship rights.

For visitors, a trip to Tallinn is a chance to see a society in transition, from Soviet bloc to capitalist West, amid postcard-perfect medieval architecture. The port city of a half-million people is an easy side trip from Scandinavia, especially from the Finnish capital Helsinki, which is just a two-hour hydrofoil ride away.

I joined cheerful crowds of Scandinavians strolling through Tallinn's Old Town on a July day. Swedes and Finns swarm here, especially in summer when the sun hardly sets, for the shopping, cutting-edge nightclubs and liquor that's far cheaper than in their heavily taxed homelands. Cruise ships on Northern European routes also regularly call at Tallinn, disgorging a polyglot of nationalities, including an increasing number of Americans.

SEE TALLIN, PAGE 22

TALLINN, FROM PAGE 21

I could have speed-walked across Tallinn's historic heart in a half-hour. Instead, I spent a day contentedly walking the narrow streets and people-watching at outdoor cafes.

Tallinn's Old Town has two sections, Upper Town and Lower Town, which are joined by steep streets and even steeper stone staircases.

Upper Town is where the aristocrats and bishops lived for centuries on Toompea hill, an outcropping several hundred feet tall. They looked down, figuratively and literally, on the tradesmen and commoners of Lower Town.

Nowadays, the genteel and peaceful Upper Town is home to Estonia's parliament (housed in Toompea Castle, bits of which date back 800 years); embassies; apartments of the newly rich, the main Lutheran church and the onion-domed and gilded Russian Orthodox cathedral, Alexander Nevsky, where the old woman begged, a discordant note among the tidy wealth.

Poetical, cobbled streets wind among Upper Town's stately stone buildings. Many buildings have been restored in the surge of investment and energy that has swept through Estonia since independence. But some remain rundown and empty, forlorn testimony to ownership battles that followed the property grabs of the Soviet and Nazi German occupations, the most recent of the waves of conquerors who for centuries have plundered across the Baltics.

I followed a winding street until it dead-ended at a little grass-and-bench viewpoint on the hill's edge; Lower Town, a dense cluster of red-tiled roofs punctuated by slender steeples, spread out below.

A half-block-long stairway led down to Lower Town. A street musician sat on a stair, hunched over his guitar and quietly playing "Stairway to Heaven," the Led Zeppelin classic rock song.

Lower Town is as historic as Upper Town — and a lot livelier.

Giggling teenage girls, with long blond braids and short plaid skirts, strolled in the shadow of



SEATTLE TIMES/MT

Tourists and locals fill the outdoor cafes of Tallinn, Estonia, where the sun hardly sets on long summer nights.

The 600-year-old town hall on Raekoja Plats, the main town square, carrying trays of glistening, plump strawberries to sell to tourists.

The girls skittered out of the way of the marching band, all most 100 strong, that put on a nighttime show, trumpets and trombones blaring.

Nearby Viru Street, where clothes, electronics and liquor shops fill the lower floors of steep-roofed, pastel-painted buildings, was packed with shoppers and strollers. A McDonald's, across the street from an ancient town gate, lured the local teens.

Can't face the golden arches

Tallinn isn't just beer, shopping and medieval scenery. Small museums dot the city, from art to Estonian history collections, and there's music everywhere.

If you go to Tallinn, Estonia

■ **Getting there:** You can fly to Tallinn from major European cities or go by ship. Deluxe ferries sail from various cities, including Stockholm (an overnight trip), and Helsinki, which also has frequent hydrofoil service making for an easy ferry trip.

■ **Getting around:** Tallinn and Helsinki are 40 miles apart across the Gulf of Finland. Major lines include Tallink, www.tallink.fi/en and Silja Line, www.silja.fi. An increasing number of cruise lines call at Tallinn on Scandinavia/Baltic cruises, including Holland America and Princess.

Travel agents can provide more details.

■ **Visa:** American tourists do not need a visa for Estonia.

■ **Money:** Estonia uses the kroon, it eventually will switch to the euro, which already is accepted in some shops. Credit cards are widely used.

■ **Language:** Estonian is related to Finnish. English is spoken by staff in some Old Town businesses, and some menus are available in English.

■ **Info:** Tallinn city tourist office: www.tallinn.ee. The Estonian Embassy in Washington, D.C., provides tourism information at www.visitestonia.com.

— THE SEATTLE TIMES



for lunch? Old Town's traditional restaurants are tucked into heavy-beamed, centuries-old buildings; in summer tables spill into the street. They dish up typical Estonian fare — pork and game, bread and beer — and pizza and sandwiches.

A few restaurants have crossed the line into tourist kitsch, with waiters in medieval-style homespun robes prancing about with wood platters. Happy groups of Swedes hammed it up with the waiters, and called for more Saku, a tasty local beer.

Tallinn isn't just beer, shopping and medieval scenery. Small museums dot the city, from art to Estonian history collections, and there's music everywhere.

In the 19th century, singing became the way for the much oppressed Estonians to express

their nationalistic yearnings. Music endures in Tallinn, from brass bands and street musicians to many choirs and a huge Song Festival every five years.

In the cloister of a medieval Dominican monastery in Old Town, I listened to Estonians sing. Two women and a man stood in a grassy courtyard, singing Shakespeare-era madrigals in clear, lively voices.

In between songs they explained, in English, German and French for a handful of tourists who had wandered in, each piece's background.

Then, done with their small-scale concert, they changed out of their choir robes into jeans and mingled with the little crowd. Like their country, these singers shifted between many worlds.

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Mar 27 N. flower parade • Tourmal • Middleburg
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Apr 10 Time Festival • Swiss • Spain • Hungary
Apr 12 Cyprus • Disney's military resort • Turin, Italy
Apr 24 Holland • Monaco • Kenyon eco safari
Apr 29 Costa Brava • Madrid • Portugal
Apr 6 Woudrichem • Theater • Nottingham, London
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July 24 Prague • Fr. Amsterdam • Sweden • Salzburg
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Aug 7 Mt. Kilimanjaro • Switzerland • Turkey • Venice
Aug 14 London • Blue France • Prince Charles residence
Aug 21 Ireland • French Riviera • Paris • Hungary
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Jan 15 Monaco • Canary Islands • Malta • South Africa
Jan 22 Ski Turkey • Greek ski resorts • Half-day Italy
Jan 29 Carmel, So. Venice, Switzerland, Fr. Germany
Feb 5 Basel for families and museum lovers • Basel
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Feb 19 Venice Carnival • Naples • Italy • Venice, Ireland
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Mar 28 Copenhagen • Swedish canals • Oslo • Norway
Apr 1 Italy: Chiusi • Naples • Italy • Venice, Ireland
Apr 8 Mozart by the sea • sailing • Wales on horseback
Apr 15 Europe's wines • Piedmont • sparkling • Port
Apr 22 Turkey • Genoa • Naples • Opera • Viopiana
May 6 The new top 10: U.S. & U.S. additions before others
May 18 Tied NL, Catalonia • surfing • fishing • hiking
May 20 Mediterranean • Venetian • Kauai • Hawaii • Vienna

May 27 Normandy • D-day sites for the 60th Anniversary
June 3 Vienna • Turkey • family trains • Olympics
June 10 Medieval Fests • Germany • Ireland • England
June 13 Germany • Prague • Belgian beer • Santorini
June 24 Spain • Montserrat • Barcelona • Malaga
July 1 Paris by Segway • Stockholm craft culture
July 4 Germany's Veterans' rally • Berlin
July 15 London duck tour • London fun
July 22 Windmill towns • Budapest's Children's Railway
July 29 Highlands • Scotland wedding
Aug 5 Athens • Sargasso • western island • Croatia
Aug 12 Paris food fest • Paris on a boat
Aug 19 Miami club Hollywood • secret club • Belize
Aug 26 Athens day • sailing
Sept 2 Hiking Mediterranean • sailing
Sept 10 Oktoberfest • Sanssouci, Germany
Sept 16 Abbey of St. Hildegard, Germany • Frankfurt
Sept 18 Royal castles • Germany • capital • Berlin
Sept 30 Worms • Oktoberfest • fine wine villages
Oct 7 Spain's Basque region • Oporto, Portugal: royalty
Oct 14 London family fun • Venice • Eastern Europe
Oct 21 Nile to Norway • Stockholm on a bus • Sweden
Oct 28 Ski Europe 2005 • Snow forest • Best resorts
Nov 4 Ski Europe 2005: Resorts • French Alps • Swiss

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The lamplit atmosphere on the cobblestoned Rue des Bouchers in Brussels seems part carnival, part "Sesame Street." Restaurants tempt you with carts of charming displays of food: carved fruits and vegetables, lobsters and delectable plates of desserts you can hardly pass by.



Art, beer, choc

Bustling Belgian cities of Brussels and

BY ANNE CHALFANT
Knight-Ridder Newspapers

Nowhere in Europe has a winter sky stopped me in my tracks as it did in Belgium. Backlit with a glow, the gray sky calls up paintings by Dutch and Flemish painters whose winter scenes look not dismally cold, but like a friendly winter scene you want to step into.

Here's an image that stays in memory: I was in the small city of Brugge, gazing at the river. Suddenly the river became a painting, shining with an uncanny sheen, haloed with the light of the gray sky. A stark winter-bare tree looked like a dancer about to leap into the water.

I don't know what causes the light

that the painters love in Belgium, but one Belgian told me that the backlit quality is created by a reflection of the North Sea.

I continued my sky watch as we divided our time between Brussels and Brugge.

Brussels struck me as a city that would be easy to live in. It bustles with purpose, serving as political and business center for Europe, with NATO headquarters and the parliament of the European Union. The place is afford with foreigners, and shopkeepers handily assist customers in four languages: French, Flemish, English and German.

Brussels is a breeze to get around. We bought a map and took to the clean, efficient subway system, following the sightseeing plan of our architecture-student son, who characteristically tackles foreign cities by scoping out architecture. That set us up for an art nouveau tour of Brussels, a movement that flourished in the city at the turn of the last century.

I soon found myself charmed by the lyrical, craftsman-based styles of this movement, including sinuously carved wooden door frames, elaborately twisted metal adornments, stained glass and curved lines.

The remnants of art nouveau can be seen all over Brussels, but you have to be looking.

The best place to get a feel is the Victor Horta museum. Horta is considered the founding father of the movement, and his home is charming, with curved and carved wood, elaborate staircases, a cozy feeling and windows that beautifully frame that backlit gray winter sky.

Several other art nouveau sites can be seen on Avenue Louise, the high fashion department store part of Brussels. We walked in the gray morning light to the Hotel Solvay on Avenue Louise, where we admired the curved-wood front door and ornate wrought-iron balcony.

Built in 1894 by Horta, it is now privately owned. So is the Hotel Max Hallet, on the same street.



Above: The elaborate stairway of Brussels' Horta House, named for the founding father of the art nouveau movement.

At right: Patrons enjoy the night air while dining on the Grand Place in Brussels.



Our urban treasure hunt took us into residential neighborhoods, where we mingled with the real people of Brussels. A Saturday morning here felt like a Saturday morning anywhere: It was errand day, and get-the-baby-out-in-the-stroller day. Oh, yes — and stop for a cappuccino day.

We made like the locals on that one. In the more central part of the city, we visited the Palais des Beaux Arts, then the Old England Department store adorned with twisted metal turrets. In an elegant neighborhood we saw a tall house with an almost Gothic feel, Maison St. Cyr, at No. 11 Square Ambiorix.

Our art nouveau scavenging took us all over the city, but be warned: There's a downside to taking a narrow view of a new city. We only stumbled

upon Brussels' famous Grand Place on our last evening.

It would have been a big mistake not to see this huge cobblesquare of ornate 17th century spired and palatial architecture — king's palace turned museum and other civic buildings beautifully lit at night.

Our biggest bumble in Brussels, though, was to continue to be startled by high-priced restaurants. We had not yet discovered Rue des Bouchers. The atmosphere on this lamplit, cobble-



Thirsty? Waiters who treat you as if you were their own invited guest will be happy to fill your glass with Belgian beer.



In Bruges, you find a chocolate shop every few feet, offering confections that are as appealing to the eye as they are to the palate, like those on display here.

Chocolate, charm

and Bruges offer more than mere beauty



Photos courtesy of the Belgian Tourist Office

Colorful cafe tables spring up like mushrooms in Bruges.

stoned street is part carnival, part "Sesame Street." Restaurants tempt you in with carts of charming displays of food: carved fruits and vegetables, lobsters and delectable plates of goodies you can hardly pass by. To further lure you, a waiter beckons you in as though you are his awaited guest.

He enumerates the night's special, which includes wine, salad, soup, dessert, everything — for 12 euros. Twelve euros when we had been dishing up 30

euros for dinner? Next time, read the guidebook.

Then we were off to Bruges, the medieval town that tourism keeps alive, and an easy two-hour train ride from Brussels.

We arrived during Christmas market season, when vendors set up their wares in the village square. I had always wanted to see Christmas markets in Europe, but truth be told, these stalls sold mostly flea-market goods.

No matter. It was fun to mingle with the crowds, and what do they put in that *Giljweine*? Hot wine with spices, it is very tasty and it does makes you glow. Belgian waffles from the stands were also so delicious, they required

more than one visit.

And then there was the chocolate — with a shop about every 20 paces. Belgian chocolate is arguably the world's best. And Belgian chocolate is far less expensive in Bruges than Brussels.

Clothing is also less expensive here, another reason why the French, Swiss, Dutch and Germans take the train here for the weekend. The handmade lace in the many shops is beautiful, but it's an expensive souvenir.

But lace curtains look so right in Belgian windows. You can picture a painting of a Flemish woman, sitting in a chair, as the ethereal light of the Belgian sky falls through the lace curtains upon her.



SOURCE: ESRI

AP

Stars and Stripes

We list ski events as space allows. Send listings to: travel@mail.strips.osd.mil
CLUBS

AVIANO (ITALY) SKI CLUB. www.avianoskiclub.com. Nov. 14-17, Kaprun, \$171-\$249; Nov. 28-30, Stubai, \$214-\$263; Dec. 14-17, Club Med St. Moritz, 650-750 euros; Dec. 16-22, Kitzbühel, \$230; Dec. 20-26, St. Anton, \$355.

FRANKFURT INTERNATIONAL SKI CLUB. 069-9720-3669; Nov. 19-21, Kaunertal, 175 euros; Nov. 24-26, Hinterzuck, 395 euros; Dec. 3-5, Hochgurgl, 195 euros; Dec. 9-12, Saas Fee, 255 euros; Dec. 9-12, Cervinia, Italy, 790 euros; Dec. 12-19, Val d'Isère, 890 euros; Dec. 26-Jan. 1, St. Veit, 1,395 euros; Dec. 29-Jan. 2, Interlaken, 395 euros.

Ski Events

GRAFENWÖHR SKI & SNOW-BOARDING CLUB. DSN 476-

1560, or CIV (064-1831560). Nov. 24-26, Hinterzuck, price TBA.

HEIDELBERG SKI CLUB.

06202-577 or DSN 370-5352; Nov. 24-26, Stubai, 285 euros; Nov. 24-26, Obergurgl, 285 euros; Dec. 12-19, Cervinia, 790 euros; Dec. 18-24/25-26, Aradiba, 460-610 euros; Dec. 23-26, Zermatt, 425 euros.

KAISERSLAUTERN SKI CLUB.

6303-4751; Nov. 24-26, Stubai, 290 euros; Dec. 19-25, St. Veit, 1,400 euros; Dec. 26-Jan. 1, St. Veit II, 400 euros.

MANNHEIM SKI CLUB.

06206-75268; Nov. 24-26 Zermatt, 315 euros; Dec. 11-18, Malleva, Italy, 530 euros; Dec. 19-25, St. Veit, price TBA.

PATCH SKI CLUB. Stuttgart, DSN

430-5789; Nov. 24-26, Obergurgl, 320 euros; Nov. 24-26, Zermatt I, 395; Zermatt II, 340 euros; Dec. 10-12, Davos, 220 euros; Dec. 12-19, Club Med-Cervinia, 770 euros; Dec. 19-26, Arberg-Gröden, 580 euros; Dec. 19-26, Arberg II-Alpine, 430 euros; Dec. 26-Jan. 2, Les Menuires, France, 660 euros.

TANNENBAUM SKI CLUB.

06301-3478; Nov. 24-29, Stubai, 275 euros; Nov. 24-29, Zermatt, 340 euros; Dec. 3-5, Obergurgl, 205

euros; Dec. 12-19, Val d'Isère Club Med, 875 euros; Dec. 19-26, St. Veit-Alpendorf, 385 euros; Dec. 26-Jan. 2, Dolomites, 630 euros.

WÜRZBURG SKI CLUB.

06109-1181562; Nov. 12-14 Stubai, 175 euros; Nov. 20, wine tasting in Randeracker, 25 euros; Nov. 24-26, Hinterzuck, 340 euros; Dec. 19-25, St. Veit, 535 euros.

OUTDOOR RECREATION

BAUMHOLDER. DSN 485-7182; Nov. 24-27 Kaprun, \$415.

GIessen. DSN 343-8202; Nov. 26-30, Zermatt; Dec. 13, Garmisch, price TBA.

KATTERBACH. DSN 467-3225 or CIV 09802-83-3225; Dec. 11, Garmisch, Germany; Dec. 24-26, Austria. Call for prices.

HANAU. DSN 322-6015; Nov. 24-26 Zermatt, \$229.

KAISERSLAUTERN. DSN 489-7751; Nov. 19-21, Hinterzuck, \$145; Nov. 20, ski express \$55; Nov. 25-28, Kaprun, \$235; Nov. 27, ski express, \$55; Dec. 3-5, Obergurgl, \$189; Dec. 4, ski express, \$55; Dec. 11, ski express, \$55; Dec. 17-19, Laax-Fels, \$189; Dec. 18, ski express, \$55; Dec. 23-26, Zermatt, \$229.

MANNHEIM. DSN 381-7215; Dec. 18 and 26, Engelberg, \$50.

SPANGDAHELM. DSN 452-7176; Nov. 24-28, Gstaad, \$290 dorm, \$365 double.

STUTTGART. DSN 431-2774; Dec. 26-Jan. 2, Gstaad, \$620 to \$310 depending on age.

VICENZA (ITALY). DSN 634-7453; Nov. 27, Val Senales; Dec. 4 & 5, Oberberg; Dec. 11, San Martino; Dec. 18, Alleghe.

WIESBADEN. DSN 337-5760; Dec. 11 and 18, Engelberg.

**alpine snow conditions**

as of 11/6/2004

Resort	Snow Base Top/Bottom	Last Snow	Now Snow	Lifts Open	General Information
Cervinia, IT	57' 5/10	N/A	N/A	8/20	Link to Zermatt open; 3 trails open
Engelberg, SW	N/A	N/A	N/A	8/25	Will re-open 1/20 for winter season
Gstaad, SW	277.50	11/5	15 cm	5/83	Terrain Park Open, all Glacier 3000, walking required
Hinterzuck, AUS	3010	N/A	N/A	13/21	12 trails and Half Pipe Open
Kaunertal, AUS	3010	11/5	5 cm	5/9	Five surface lifts, Glacier Terrain open
Kitzbühel, AUS	57.5-59	11/5	5 cm	10/28	6 trails open; Prev. Snow 19.51-20 cm
Mallat (Gastein), AUS	4010	10/15	10 cm	4/10	Prev. Snow 10.10-10 cm
Nauertal/Stubai, AUS	4510	10/31	3 cm	7/24	Four trails open; Prev. Snow 10.27-10 cm
Passio Tonale, IT	132.5-9	N/A	N/A	6/26	Four trails open; Terrain: 4 km on Presena Glacier
Pitzal, AUS	50/25	N/A	2 cm	5/7	Last 24 hours 2.5 c; 8km grooming; 2km snowmaking
Saas Fee, SW	170/10	11/3	10 cm	7/22	70 trails open; Glacier Lifts closed at 3-45 pm
Sölden, AUS	65-0	10/31	5 cm	8/35	Seven trails open; 30km hiking in 4 walking trail lifts
Tignes, FR	N/A	N/A	N/A	0/47	Open for riding on the Grande Motte Glacier
Zermatt, SW	100-0	N/A	N/A	8/32	Open Mountain bike trails, Half Pipe & Terrain Park

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Outdoor Recreation Ski Schedule

Kaiserslautern Patrick Barnekow 489-7751/861-236-7731
Nov 20 & 27 Ski Express
Nov 25-28 Kaprun, Austria

Darmstadt Central Frickhausen 340-4277/581-49-4277
Nov 25-28 Skiing in St. Veit, Austria

Mannheim Taylor Barnekow 381-7215/621-730-7215
Dec 18 Skiing & Snowboarding Lessons

Heidelberg Patrick Henry Village 388-9182/622-338-9182
Jan 8 Ski, Engelberg Switzerland

Calendar

COMPILED BY
JAYNE TRAENDLY
Stripes Travel researcher

Some event info may change. It's wise to confirm details with local tourism offices before traveling.

BELGIUM

Telephone: (32) 2/50-40-390
E-mail: info@visitbelgium.com
BRUSSELS: Winter fun fair, through Nov. 24. Simon Stevinplein, Jan van Eyckplein.
BRUSSELS: 24 hours of Belgian special beers, Nov. 6-7.
BRUSSELS: Eureka fair, Nov. 11-16. World Exhibition of Innovation, Research and New Technologies at Brussels Expo.
MECHELEN: Christmas horse

show, Nov. 26-30. Mechelen Nekkerhal.
BRUSSELS: Christmas market, Dec. 6-Jan. 6.

DENMARK

Telephone: (45) 33/111-325
E-mail: at@id.dk
www.visitdenmark.com
COPENHAGEN: Christmas market, Nov. 12-Dec. 23. Tivoli Gardens.
ARHUS: Christmas market, Dec. 1-23.
ODENSE: Christmas market, Dec. 4-5, 11-12.

ENGLAND

www.visitbritain.com
BIRMINGHAM: International motor cycle and scooter show, through Nov. 14. NEC.
LONDON: Fine arts and antiques fair, through Nov. 14.
www.olympia-events.com
LONDON: Lord Mayor's show, Nov. 13.
BIRMINGHAM: Festive gift fair, Nov. 18-21. NEC.
YORK: St. Nicholas fayre, Nov. 25-28.
WORCESTER: Christmas fayre, Nov. 25-28.
LONDON: Christmas craft fair, Nov. 26-28. Alexandra Palace.
BIRMINGHAM: Birmingham tattoo, Nov. 27-28. NEC.

FRANCE

Telephone: (33) 1/49-52.53.54
www.france-tourism.com
METZ: Flea market, Nov. 13. Dec. 12 (7 a.m.-6 p.m.).
Dec. 18. Open 6 a.m.-noon.
THROUGHTOUT: The country: Launch of Beaujolais Nouveau, Nov. 17-21.
BEAUNE: Les Trois Gloires, Nov. 19-21. Wine auction.
MULHOUSE: Christmas market, Nov. 26-29.
REIMS: Christmas village, Nov. 26-Dec. 24.
COLMAR: Christmas market, Nov. 26-Dec. 24.
SELESTAT (Alsace): Christmas market, Nov. 27-Dec. 24.
STRASBOURG: Christmas market, Nov. 27-Dec. 31.
PARIS (Ile-de-France): Horse, pony and donkey fair, Nov. 27-Dec. 15. Porte de Versailles.
PARIS: International nautical fair, Dec. 3-13.
MANNHEIM: Christmas market, Dec. 4-5, 11-12, 18-19.

GERMANY

Telephone: (49) 69/97464-0
www.germany-tourism.de
HAMBURG: Dec. through Dec. 5. Fair.
MANNHEIM: HEIDELBERG: International film festival, Nov. 18-27.
BONN: Christmas market, Nov. 18-Dec. 23.
KOBLENZ: Christmas market, Nov. 20-22.
TRIER: Christmas market, Nov. 22-Dec. 23.
KÖLN: Christmas market, Nov. 22-Dec. 23.
WIESBADEN: Christmas market, Nov. 22-Dec. 23.
FRANKFURT: Christmas market, Nov. 24-Dec. 22.
HEIDELBERG: Christmas market, Nov. 24-Dec. 22.

BELGIUM: If you're interested in what new inventions are springing up on the international technology scene, head to Brussels' Expo for "Eureka: World Exhibition of Innovation, Research and New Technology." It starts Tuesday and runs through Nov. 21.

About 800 participants from 43 countries will present 1,200 innovations and inventions. The exhibits run the gamut, including Robot Gino (Croatia), an intelligent computer mouse that works with human vision for paralysis victims, intelligent vehicle control using Global Positioning Satellite technology to stop illegal speeders and other traffic offenses (Iran), a urinal that operates without water and sends odors to a used water pipeline (Belgium) and a baseball-style cap that keeps glasses secure on top of the wearer's head (United States).

The fair runs from 10-6 daily. Entry is 7.50 euros per person. For more details and list of inventions, go to www.brussels-eureka.be.

ENGLAND: Enjoy the pageantry of a 783-year-old tradition in London on Saturday as

MANNHEIM: Christmas market, Nov. 24-Dec. 23.
BREMEN: Christmas market, Nov. 24-Dec. 23.
MUNICH: Tollwood, Nov. 25-Dec. 31.
BADEN-BADEN: Christmas market, Nov. 26-Dec. 22.
STUTTGART: Christmas market, Nov. 26-Dec. 23.
NÜRNBERG: Christmas market, Nov. 26-Dec. 24.
MUNICH: Christmas market, Nov. 26-Dec. 24.
BAMBERG: Christmas market, Nov. 26-Dec. 23.

ITALY

Telephone: (39) 649-711
www.italiantourism.com
ROME: Jazz festival, through Nov. 18.
FLORENCE: Nov. 28.
FABRIO: Truffle and food products market fair, Nov. 12-14.
SAN MINIATO: White truffle festival, Nov. 13-14.
MIRANO: Gioco dell'Oca, Nov. 13-14.
HUMAN snakes & ladders game.
ROCCA CANTERANO: Festa del comuto, Nov. 13-14. Honors betrayed spouses.
NOVARA: Gioco dell'Oca, Nov. 13-14.
ALBA: New oil and wine festival, Nov. 20-21.
VENICE: Festival of La Salute, Nov. 21.
FIRENZE: City marathon, Nov. 28.
VATICAN: Christmas concert, Dec. 18.
VENICE: Christmas market, Dec.

Best bets for the week

the city's Lord Mayor rides the city streets to Westminster so he can pledge his allegiance to the Crown. The event began in 1215, when King John granted a charter allowing London to elect its own mayor, as long as he was approved by the crown and pledged his loyalty.

Today's march has grown to 33 miles with 8,000 participants and 352 vehicles, including three battle tanks. The first units leave Mansion House at 10:55 a.m., with the Lord Mayor about one hour behind. It arrives at the Royal Courts of Justice at 11:22 a.m., where the Lord Mayor swears allegiance before the Lord Chief Justice and Judges of the Queen's Bench Division. It starts the return trip at 1 p.m.

At 5 p.m., the celebration ends with fireworks shot from a barge on the Thames between Waterloo and Blackfriars bridges. For details and a map of the route, go to the Web at www.lordmayorshow.org.

ITALY: Those who fear snakes don't have to worry about attending Mirano's human board game "Snakes and Ladders" Sunday: the snakes are really geese. Al-

though the concepts of the game date to ancient Egypt and China, Italy's traditional "Gioco dell'Oca" first appeared during the Medici period in 1580 and as a board game in 1640.

Today it consists of six teams of traditional costumes from Mirano's six neighborhoods making their way through 63 squares by climbing ladders, jumping geese and conquering other obstacles. The event is free and begins at 3 p.m. There will be markets, street theater and music through the weekend.

NETHERLANDS: St. Nicholas himself arrives at 11:30 a.m. Sunday by steamship in Scheveningen's harbor. Accompanying him will be his white horse and a group of band, acrobats, clowns, animals and his helpers, the Black Peters. He'll be greeted by The Hague's mayor before setting off on a tour through the city center, stopping at Spuiplein Square, where children's entertainment will begin at 2 p.m. Then he rides on to Dam Square in Amsterdam, where he wraps up the formal proceedings with a welcome from that city's mayor.

JAYNE TRAENDLY

Let's Go

BY JAYNE TRAENDLY
Stripes Travel researcher

Bavarian life

Most Americans recognize at least a few of these things from German culture: Lederhosen, the Alps, the Oktoberfest, Himmels, blue-and-white tablecloths, beer and wine. Actually, many of these stereotypes belong to the Bavarian region. Until March 27, the Munich City Museum is presenting the exhibit "White-Blue Lifestyle," with more than 800 objects representing the Bavarian lifestyle. The museum is open Tuesday through Sunday. Entry is 2.50 euros. The address is St.-Jakobs-Platz 1. The telephone number is (+49) (0) 89/233 223 70. Web site: www.stadt-museum-online.de.

Maritime Britain

Next year is the 200th anniversary of the Battle of Trafalgar in which one of Britain's greatest naval heroes, Adm. Lord Nelson, met his end. It is the inspiration for the country's maritime celebrations next year, "Seabritain 2005." A wide variety of events will be featured, including Portsmouth's International Festival of the Sea (June 29 to July 3), which begins with Trafalgar 200, the Royal Navy's commemorations, and a Fleet Review with international naval ships on June 28. The National Maritime Museum in Greenwich's exhibition "Nelson & Napoleon" (July 7 to Nov. 13), focusing on the lives of the two adversaries; the Trafalgar Flotilla, a historic re-enactment, (Sept. 16) on the River Thames; and Trafalgar Weekend (Oct. 1 to 23), which marks the anniversary of the admiral's death.

For more events that will be continually added, go to www.seabritain2005.com.

BARCELONA: Jazz festival, through Dec. 15.
SWITZERLAND
Telephone: (41) 1/268-1111
www.visitzurich.ch
BERN: Union market, Nov. 22.
GENEVA: Fête de l'Escalade, Dec. 11-12.

WALES

Telephone: (44) 1222/49-9909
LLANWRIDY WELLS: Beer and walking festival, Nov. 12-21.

6-24. Santo Stefano Square.

THE NETHERLANDS

Telephone: (31) 70/370-5705
E-mail: info@nbt.nl
www.visitnetherlands.nl
S-CHEVENINGEN: Arrival of St. Nicholas in harbor, Nov. 13.
AMSTERDAM: IDFA, Nov. 18-28.
Documentary film festival.
AMSTERDAM: Art and antique fair, Dec. 5-12. RAI.

SPAIN

Telephone: (34) 91/411-4014/6011
www.tourspain.co.uk
MADRID: Jazz show, through Nov. 30. www.munimadrid.es

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AFRTS Television Schedule

Updated sports listings are available on the first Scoreboard page of the sports section or AFRT's Web site at <http://myafm.dodmedia.osd.mil>

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 11, 2004

(AFN-FAMILY)	(AFN-MOVIE)	(AFN-EUROPE)	(AFN-KOREA)	(AFN-NEWS)	(AFN-SPORTS)	(SPECTRUM)	(AFN-PACIFIC)
9:00 Stanley Sagwa-Siamese Cat	Movie *** "The Princess and the Pea" (1994, Disney)	Dr. Phil	Jeopardy!	Nightly News	Ball Riding P&H	30 Minute Meals	Jeopardy!
10:00 Arthur (E)	Movie *** "The Princess and the Pea" (1994, Disney)	(9:46) Oprah Winfrey	Headline News	Nightly Business Report	Low Carb & Low Fat	Design on a Dime	Headline News
10:30 The Family OddParents	(10:00) Movie *** "The Princess and the Pea" (1994, Disney)	(3:35) Guiding Light	Advisory Block	Harboul With Chris Matthews	Style Star	Design on a Dime	Headline News
11:00 The Family OddParents	Movie *** "The Princess and the Pea" (1994, Disney)	(1:17) General Hospital	Two and a Half Men	80 Minutes II	ET News Live	Design on a Dime	Headline News
12:00 Stanley	Movie *** "The Princess and the Pea" (1994, Disney)	(1:17) General Hospital	Will & Grace	What's So Real?	ET News Live	Design on a Dime	Headline News
12:30 Dora the Explorer	Movie *** "The Princess and the Pea" (1994, Disney)	(1:17) General Hospital	The Bachelor	Good Morning America	What's So Real?	Design on a Dime	Headline News
12:30 The Wiggles	Movie *** "The Princess and the Pea" (1994, Disney)	(1:17) General Hospital	The Bachelor	Good Morning America	What's So Real?	Design on a Dime	Headline News
13:00 Bob the Builder	Movie *** "The Princess and the Pea" (1994, Disney)	(1:17) General Hospital	The Bachelor	Good Morning America	What's So Real?	Design on a Dime	Headline News
13:30 Dragon Tales (E)	Movie *** "The Princess and the Pea" (1994, Disney)	(1:17) General Hospital	The Bachelor	Good Morning America	What's So Real?	Design on a Dime	Headline News
14:00 Stanley	Movie *** "The Princess and the Pea" (1994, Disney)	(1:17) General Hospital	The Bachelor	Good Morning America	What's So Real?	Design on a Dime	Headline News
14:30 Barney & Friends (E)	Movie *** "The Princess and the Pea" (1994, Disney)	(1:17) General Hospital	The Bachelor	Good Morning America	What's So Real?	Design on a Dime	Headline News
15:00 Funniest Home Videos	Movie *** "The Princess and the Pea" (1994, Disney)	(1:17) General Hospital	The Bachelor	Good Morning America	What's So Real?	Design on a Dime	Headline News
15:30 Full House "Slumber Party"	Movie *** "The Princess and the Pea" (1994, Disney)	(1:17) General Hospital	The Bachelor	Good Morning America	What's So Real?	Design on a Dime	Headline News
16:00 Pokemon	Movie *** "The Princess and the Pea" (1994, Disney)	(1:17) General Hospital	The Bachelor	Good Morning America	What's So Real?	Design on a Dime	Headline News
16:30 Yu-Gi-Oh! (Part 1 of 2)	Movie *** "The Princess and the Pea" (1994, Disney)	(1:17) General Hospital	The Bachelor	Good Morning America	What's So Real?	Design on a Dime	Headline News
17:00 Hey Arnold! "Mama"	Movie *** "The Princess and the Pea" (1994, Disney)	(1:17) General Hospital	The Bachelor	Good Morning America	What's So Real?	Design on a Dime	Headline News
17:30 Rocket Power	Movie *** "The Princess and the Pea" (1994, Disney)	(1:17) General Hospital	The Bachelor	Good Morning America	What's So Real?	Design on a Dime	Headline News
18:00 SpongeBob SquarePants	Movie *** "The Princess and the Pea" (1994, Disney)	(1:17) General Hospital	The Bachelor	Good Morning America	What's So Real?	Design on a Dime	Headline News
18:30 Rugrats	Movie *** "The Princess and the Pea" (1994, Disney)	(1:17) General Hospital	The Bachelor	Good Morning America	What's So Real?	Design on a Dime	Headline News
19:00 That's So Raven	Movie *** "The Princess and the Pea" (1994, Disney)	(1:17) General Hospital	The Bachelor	Good Morning America	What's So Real?	Design on a Dime	Headline News
20:00 All That	Movie *** "The Princess and the Pea" (1994, Disney)	(1:17) General Hospital	The Bachelor	Good Morning America	What's So Real?	Design on a Dime	Headline News
20:30 7th Heaven	Movie *** "The Princess and the Pea" (1994, Disney)	(1:17) General Hospital	The Bachelor	Good Morning America	What's So Real?	Design on a Dime	Headline News
21:00 Sabrina, the Teenage Witch	Movie *** "The Princess and the Pea" (1994, Disney)	(1:17) General Hospital	The Bachelor	Good Morning America	What's So Real?	Design on a Dime	Headline News
21:30 Sabrina, the Teenage Witch	Movie *** "The Princess and the Pea" (1994, Disney)	(1:17) General Hospital	The Bachelor	Good Morning America	What's So Real?	Design on a Dime	Headline News
22:00 The Cosby Show	Movie *** "The Princess and the Pea" (1994, Disney)	(1:17) General Hospital	The Bachelor	Good Morning America	What's So Real?	Design on a Dime	Headline News
22:30 Home Improvement	Movie *** "The Princess and the Pea" (1994, Disney)	(1:17) General Hospital	The Bachelor	Good Morning America	What's So Real?	Design on a Dime	Headline News
23:00 Touched by an Angel "Smile, Sweet"	Movie *** "The Princess and the Pea" (1994, Disney)	(1:17) General Hospital	The Bachelor	Good Morning America	What's So Real?	Design on a Dime	Headline News
23:30	Movie *** "The Princess and the Pea" (1994, Disney)	(1:17) General Hospital	The Bachelor	Good Morning America	What's So Real?	Design on a Dime	Headline News
FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 12, 2004							
00:00 Hey Arnold!	Movie *** "The Princess and the Pea" (1994, Disney)	(1:13:30) Late Show	Play With Me Sesame	Headline News	SportsCenter	Late Night	Play With Me Sesame
00:30 Rocket Power Show dog	Movie *** "The Princess and the Pea" (1994, Disney)	Access Hollywood	Bear in the Big Blue House	NBC Nightly News		Summerland "Photo And So the Day Begins"	Bear in the Big Blue House
1:00 SpongeBob SquarePants	Movie *** "The Princess and the Pea" (1994, Disney)	Access Hollywood	Clifford the Big Red Dog (E)	ABC World News Tonight		Summerland "Photo And So the Day Begins"	Clifford the Big Red Dog (E)
1:30 Rugrats	Movie *** "The Princess and the Pea" (1994, Disney)	Access Hollywood	Clifford the Big Red Dog (E)	ABC World News Tonight		Summerland "Photo And So the Day Begins"	Clifford the Big Red Dog (E)
2:00 That's So Raven	Movie *** "The Princess and the Pea" (1994, Disney)	Access Hollywood	Clifford the Big Red Dog (E)	ABC World News Tonight		Summerland "Photo And So the Day Begins"	Clifford the Big Red Dog (E)
2:30 All That	Movie *** "The Princess and the Pea" (1994, Disney)	Access Hollywood	Clifford the Big Red Dog (E)	ABC World News Tonight		Summerland "Photo And So the Day Begins"	Clifford the Big Red Dog (E)
3:00 7th Heaven	Movie *** "The Princess and the Pea" (1994, Disney)	Access Hollywood	Clifford the Big Red Dog (E)	ABC World News Tonight		Summerland "Photo And So the Day Begins"	Clifford the Big Red Dog (E)
4:00 Sabrina, the Teenage Witch	Movie *** "The Princess and the Pea" (1994, Disney)	Access Hollywood	Clifford the Big Red Dog (E)	ABC World News Tonight		Summerland "Photo And So the Day Begins"	Clifford the Big Red Dog (E)
4:30 Sabrina, the Teenage Witch	Movie *** "The Princess and the Pea" (1994, Disney)	Access Hollywood	Clifford the Big Red Dog (E)	ABC World News Tonight		Summerland "Photo And So the Day Begins"	Clifford the Big Red Dog (E)
5:00 Sesame Street (E)	Movie *** "The Princess and the Pea" (1994, Disney)	Access Hollywood	Clifford the Big Red Dog (E)	ABC World News Tonight		Summerland "Photo And So the Day Begins"	Clifford the Big Red Dog (E)
5:30 Barney & Friends (E)	Movie *** "The Princess and the Pea" (1994, Disney)	Access Hollywood	Clifford the Big Red Dog (E)	ABC World News Tonight		Summerland "Photo And So the Day Begins"	Clifford the Big Red Dog (E)
6:00 Blue's Clues	Movie *** "The Princess and the Pea" (1994, Disney)	Access Hollywood	Clifford the Big Red Dog (E)	ABC World News Tonight		Summerland "Photo And So the Day Begins"	Clifford the Big Red Dog (E)
6:30 Dragon Tales (E)	Movie *** "The Princess and the Pea" (1994, Disney)	Access Hollywood	Clifford the Big Red Dog (E)	ABC World News Tonight		Summerland "Photo And So the Day Begins"	Clifford the Big Red Dog (E)
7:00 Bob the Builder	Movie *** "The Princess and the Pea" (1994, Disney)	Access Hollywood	Clifford the Big Red Dog (E)	ABC World News Tonight		Summerland "Photo And So the Day Begins"	Clifford the Big Red Dog (E)
7:30 The Wiggles	Movie *** "The Princess and the Pea" (1994, Disney)	Access Hollywood	Clifford the Big Red Dog (E)	ABC World News Tonight		Summerland "Photo And So the Day Begins"	Clifford the Big Red Dog (E)
8:00 Dora the Explorer	Movie *** "The Princess and the Pea" (1994, Disney)	Access Hollywood	Clifford the Big Red Dog (E)	ABC World News Tonight		Summerland "Photo And So the Day Begins"	Clifford the Big Red Dog (E)
8:30 Stanley	Movie *** "The Princess and the Pea" (1994, Disney)	Access Hollywood	Clifford the Big Red Dog (E)	ABC World News Tonight		Summerland "Photo And So the Day Begins"	Clifford the Big Red Dog (E)
9:00 Sagwa-Siamese Cat	Movie *** "The Princess and the Pea" (1994, Disney)	Access Hollywood	Clifford the Big Red Dog (E)	ABC World News Tonight		Summerland "Photo And So the Day Begins"	Clifford the Big Red Dog (E)
10:00 Arthur (E)	Movie *** "The Princess and the Pea" (1994, Disney)	Access Hollywood	Clifford the Big Red Dog (E)	ABC World News Tonight		Summerland "Photo And So the Day Begins"	Clifford the Big Red Dog (E)
10:30 Between the Lions "Hats"	Movie *** "The Princess and the Pea" (1994, Disney)	Access Hollywood	Clifford the Big Red Dog (E)	ABC World News Tonight		Summerland "Photo And So the Day Begins"	Clifford the Big Red Dog (E)
11:00 Sagwa-Siamese Cat	Movie *** "The Princess and the Pea" (1994, Disney)	Access Hollywood	Clifford the Big Red Dog (E)	ABC World News Tonight		Summerland "Photo And So the Day Begins"	Clifford the Big Red Dog (E)
11:30 Stanley	Movie *** "The Princess and the Pea" (1994, Disney)	Access Hollywood	Clifford the Big Red Dog (E)	ABC World News Tonight		Summerland "Photo And So the Day Begins"	Clifford the Big Red Dog (E)
12:00 Dora the Explorer	Movie *** "The Princess and the Pea" (1994, Disney)	Access Hollywood	Clifford the Big Red Dog (E)	ABC World News Tonight		Summerland "Photo And So the Day Begins"	Clifford the Big Red Dog (E)
12:30 The Wiggles	Movie *** "The Princess and the Pea" (1994, Disney)	Access Hollywood	Clifford the Big Red Dog (E)	ABC World News Tonight		Summerland "Photo And So the Day Begins"	Clifford the Big Red Dog (E)
13:00 Bob the Builder	Movie *** "The Princess and the Pea" (1994, Disney)	Access Hollywood	Clifford the Big Red Dog (E)	ABC World News Tonight		Summerland "Photo And So the Day Begins"	Clifford the Big Red Dog (E)
13:30 Dragon Tales (E)	Movie *** "The Princess and the Pea" (1994, Disney)	Access Hollywood	Clifford the Big Red Dog (E)	ABC World News Tonight		Summerland "Photo And So the Day Begins"	Clifford the Big Red Dog (E)
14:00 Blue's Clues	Movie *** "The Princess and the Pea" (1994, Disney)	Access Hollywood	Clifford the Big Red Dog (E)	ABC World News Tonight		Summerland "Photo And So the Day Begins"	Clifford the Big Red Dog (E)
14:30 Barney & Friends (E)	Movie *** "The Princess and the Pea" (1994, Disney)	Access Hollywood	Clifford the Big Red Dog (E)	ABC World News Tonight		Summerland "Photo And So the Day Begins"	Clifford the Big Red Dog (E)
15:00 Funniest Home Videos	Movie *** "The Princess and the Pea" (1994, Disney)	Access Hollywood	Clifford the Big Red Dog (E)	ABC World News Tonight		Summerland "Photo And So the Day Begins"	Clifford the Big Red Dog (E)
15:30 Full House	Movie *** "The Princess and the Pea" (1994, Disney)	Access Hollywood	Clifford the Big Red Dog (E)	ABC World News Tonight		Summerland "Photo And So the Day Begins"	Clifford the Big Red Dog (E)
16:00 Pokemon	Movie *** "The Princess and the Pea" (1994, Disney)	Access Hollywood	Clifford the Big Red Dog (E)	ABC World News Tonight		Summerland "Photo And So the Day Begins"	Clifford the Big Red Dog (E)
16:30 Yu-Gi-Oh! (Part 2 of 2)	Movie *** "The Princess and the Pea" (1994, Disney)	Access Hollywood	Clifford the Big Red Dog (E)	ABC World News Tonight		Summerland "Photo And So the Day Begins"	Clifford the Big Red Dog (E)
17:00 Asahi! Real Monsters	Movie *** "The Princess and the Pea" (1994, Disney)	Access Hollywood	Clifford the Big Red Dog (E)	ABC World News Tonight		Summerland "Photo And So the Day Begins"	Clifford the Big Red Dog (E)
17:30 Rocket Power	Movie *** "The Princess and the Pea" (1994, Disney)	Access Hollywood	Clifford the Big Red Dog (E)	ABC World News Tonight		Summerland "Photo And So the Day Begins"	Clifford the Big Red Dog (E)
18:00 SpongeBob SquarePants	Movie *** "The Princess and the Pea" (1994, Disney)	Access Hollywood	Clifford the Big Red Dog (E)	ABC World News Tonight		Summerland "Photo And So the Day Begins"	Clifford the Big Red Dog (E)
18:30 Rugrats	Movie *** "The Princess and the Pea" (1994, Disney)	Access Hollywood	Clifford the Big Red Dog (E)	ABC World News Tonight		Summerland "Photo And So the Day Begins"	Clifford the Big Red Dog (E)
19:00 ChalkZone	Movie *** "The Princess and the Pea" (1994, Disney)	Access Hollywood	Clifford the Big Red Dog (E)	ABC World News Tonight		Summerland "Photo And So the Day Begins"	Clifford the Big Red Dog (E)
19:30 The Weekenders: Boy Genies	Movie *** "The Princess and the Pea" (1994, Disney)	Access Hollywood	Clifford the Big Red Dog (E)	ABC World News Tonight		Summerland "Photo And So the Day Begins"	Clifford the Big Red Dog (E)
20:00 Jimmy Neutron: Boy Genius	Movie *** "The Princess and the Pea" (1994, Disney)	Access Hollywood	Clifford the Big Red Dog (E)	ABC World News Tonight		Summerland "Photo And So the Day Begins"	Clifford the Big Red Dog (E)
20:30 Drake & Josh "Pilot"	Movie *** "The Princess and the Pea" (1994, Disney)	Access Hollywood	Clifford the Big Red Dog (E)	ABC World News Tonight		Summerland "Photo And So the Day Begins"	Clifford the Big Red Dog (E)
21:00 Lizzie McGuire	Movie *** "The Princess and the Pea" (1994, Disney)	Access Hollywood	Clifford the Big Red Dog (E)	ABC World News Tonight		Summerland "Photo And So the Day Begins"	Clifford the Big Red Dog (E)
21:30 Sabrina, the Teenage Witch	Movie *** "The Princess and the Pea" (1994, Disney)	Access Hollywood	Clifford the Big Red Dog (E)	ABC World News Tonight		Summerland "Photo And So the Day Begins"	Clifford the Big Red Dog (E)
22:00 Switched "Kristen and Ana"	Movie *** "The Princess and the Pea" (1994, Disney)	Access Hollywood	Clifford the Big Red Dog (E)	ABC World News Tonight		Summerland "Photo And So the Day Begins"	Clifford the Big Red Dog (E)
22:30 Radio Free Europe	Movie *** "The Princess and the Pea" (1994, Disney)	Access Hollywood	Clifford the Big Red Dog (E)	ABC World News Tonight		Summerland "Photo And So the Day Begins"	Clifford the Big Red Dog (E)
23:00 The Cosby Show	Movie *** "The Princess and the Pea" (1994, Disney)	Access Hollywood	Clifford the Big Red Dog (E)	ABC World News Tonight		Summerland "Photo And So the Day Begins"	Clifford the Big Red Dog (E)
23:30 Home Improvement	Movie *** "The Princess and the Pea" (1994, Disney)	Access Hollywood	Clifford the Big Red Dog (E)	ABC World News Tonight		Summerland "Photo And So the Day Begins"	Clifford the Big Red Dog (E)

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Role leads Preston to reflect on family

Actress Kelly Preston stars in the new comedy film "Eulogy."

SHNS/Lions Gate Publicity

BY LUANNE LEE
Scripted Howard News Service

Kelly Preston started her day at 5:30 a.m. with a yogurt and fruit drink sweetened with honey. She had 20 minutes before the hair and makeup people arrived to pretty her up for a day of interviews that began at 8 a.m.

Not that she needs much improvement. At 42 Preston is as beautiful as the day she married John Travolta 13 years ago. Now the mother of 12-year-old Jett and Ella, 4, Preston says she focuses most on parenthood, though she continues to act sporadically, including her role in the new comedy film "Eulogy."

"That [parenthood] will change you forever. I don't care if you've given birth four or five times already it's just so magnificent and magical and life altering. ... It brings so much to every other aspect of

your life it also puts your priorities in such great shape," she says.

Family members and their affect on each other are on her mind as she talks about "Eulogy," a comic tale about a dysfunctional family that collides when the patriarch dies. Preston plays the black sheep, of sorts, a lesbian who brings her life partner home with her.

Preston says her own family had its share of eccentrics. "My grandfather, before he passed away, he liked the young women, so he had a nurse that was very young and [he] still had this feistiness about him. And just trying to keep him in line was always a chore," she says.

She confesses she was nervous when she met Travolta's family for the first time — much more fearful when he met hers.

"I was more nervous to have Johnny meet my family because my family has lots of characters going on so I was nervous about that."

"But he fit right in, and he danced with my grandmother, and she was tickled. So it was great."

Preston grew up in Hawaii, living for a year in Iraq and then relocating to Australia when her parents divorced.

That was a tumultuous time for her, she confides.

"My brother was 6... I was about 13. I was able to handle it much more than my brother was. That was very pivotal. We moved to Australia because friends of ours from Australia came to a party my mother was having in Hawaii. They said, 'Get out of Hawaii, take a break, come stay with us in Australia and bring the kids.' We ended up living there for two years. So that was completely pivotal experience."

"For me in one way, I was OK with the separation of my parents because they were unhappy being together and they were happier being apart, so it was easier

on us kids and we still got to see my dad. He actually moved to Australia to be closer to us. So that was wonderful and my parents remained friends throughout the years."

As for acting, "I ended up just falling into it," she shrugs, "and being interested by it when I was about 15 in Hawaii and a photograph was sent and I was sent for a screen test here for 'Blue Lagoon,' obviously I didn't get it. But I started doing a lot of commercials back in Hawaii and I thought, 'This is fun and interesting' and got bitten by the bug."

Married briefly before and the one-time sweetheart of George Clooney and Charlie Sheen, Preston is convinced she's realized her life's dream.

The secret to keeping a family functional, she says, is "kindness and editing and don't just say whatever comes to your mind because it can be nasty and vicious. Brutal honesty is not always kind and it's not always asked for or warranted."

Dames take second billing to queen

It was more regal than most movie premieres — two dames and the queen were in attendance at a showing of "Ladies in Lavender" in Leicester Square in London.

Dame Judi Dench and Dame Maggie Smith, both 69 and co-stars of the film, were given second billing Monday as Queen Elizabeth II was the guest of honor.

Proceeds from the event went to the Cinema and Television Benevolent Fund, of which the queen has been patron for 52 years.



Maggie Smith and Judi Dench

Dench and Smith, who have previously appeared together in "A Room With a View" and "Tea With Mussolini," portray two spinsters in a post-World War II Cornish fishing village who take in a mysterious young Polish man they find half-drowned on a beach.

Dench said she enjoyed the ease of working with Smith again.

"It's the shorthand that we got to know," she said.

Tommy Lee enjoying his school days

Former Mötley Crüe drummer Tommy Lee said he's finding his experience at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln to be a lot of work.

In a news conference Sunday, Lee said he loves horticulture, but finds chemistry to be unbelievably hard. Another shock: Learning he had to wake at 6 a.m. to be at Memorial Stadium for drum practice with school's band.

"This is the total fish-out-of-water experience for me," Lee said. "I didn't have the opportunity to go to college. I was busy touring since the age of 17. So this is completely strange and bizarre, but a lot of fun and a lot of



Lee

work."

Lee, 42, is attending classes and activities during the filming of an NBC reality show, "Tommy Lee Goes to College." Filming began in early October.

"It's the real deal," Lee said of his studies.

Keith to perform on AOL Music Live

Toby Keith will become the first country artist to perform on AOL Music Live, the live performance series that has previously tapped Nelly, Usher, Avril Lavigne and Rod Stewart.

The Web concert will stream from The Factory in Franklin, about 20 miles south of Nashville, Tenn.

Keith said the show is a good way to reach his fans.

The concert is part of a media blitz this week to support the release of his "Greatest Hits 2" album.

Keith's hits include "I Wanna Talk About Me," "Courtesy of the Red, White and Blue (The Angry American)" and "Beer for My Horses."

His latest single is "Stays in Mexico."



Keith

Stories and photos from The Associated Press

Horoscope

Uranus screeches to a halt like a two-ton truck stopped on the freeway of life, demanding our attention and respect as he decides to change direction. We can't always expect the universal traffic to flow at the pace we'd like, and Uranus reminds us that sometimes a jam can cause us to observe the things we'd normally breeze by.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY

(November 11). Your year will center on issues of independence. Many of you will become self-employed within the next six months or retire altogether. If you're married, you'll find yourself longing for the freedom of your bachelor days or before you had children. Use these insights to revitalize your marriage and creative pursuits.

ARIES (March 21-April 19).

Often, victory comes to us when we are at our lowest point. You understand that better than any other sign. You know that if you stumble around in the darkness long enough, you're bound to bump into the light switch.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20).

The sunrise is back in your step, and the universe seems to be working for you rather than against you. Enjoy the harmonious improvements to your love life and your wallet.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21).

All systems are go for a really fun weekend! Get a jump on it now by firming up your plans and rallying the troops. You have a good friend or older sibling who brings out the best in you. Include that person.

CANCER (June 22-July 22).

Home, where your heart is and where all your astrophysical indicators are pointing, too. Expect big changes in this area and probably a lot sooner than you think. Consider where in the world you might like to move.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22).

Ch-ch-ch-changes (sung in the manner of David Bowie). The operative word, and perhaps nobody is feeling it more than you. You have

a glow about you, as if you're carrying a secret — which of course you are, so don't tell.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). A financial situation that's been stressing you out eases up considerably. Perhaps a passive/aggressive client finally decides to send you that check he owes you. Maybe your favorite aunt slips you some mad money.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22).

23-Oct. 23. Sugar melts away into the warm and toasty glow of love. It could be that you've met your soul mate or have kissed and made up. But let's not limit it to that. You are, to put it simply, in love with life again.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21).

You're like the phoenix. No matter how burnt out you get, you can rise from ashes and be reborn into the strong, beautiful bird you're meant to be! Hard life lessons teach you to transform and renew your life force.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21).

21. An issue concerning real estate crops up. Your rent may increase, or you could refinance your mortgage at a really low rate. An elderly loved one facing a change of residence needs you. Let him or her know you'll help.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19).

There's the old work rut again. Security is one thing; boredom is quite another. Find new diversions to keep things interesting — anything from taking some new business classes to changing the wallpaper on your computer.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18).

Issues of autonomy are coming to the forefront. If you're still not financially independent, that can affect your self-esteem. In love, consider how much space you need in the relationship. Don't be afraid to ask the tough questions.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20).

Creativity versus stability is the theme. Are you willing to give up a steady paycheck to live the artist's life? Or are you craving a job that doesn't involve projects and time cards? Experimentation is the spice of life.

Creators Syndicate

Holiday Mathis



Calvin and Hobbes



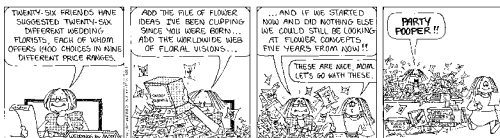
Jump Start



Zits



Cathy



Hi and Lois



Beetle Bailey



Red and Rover



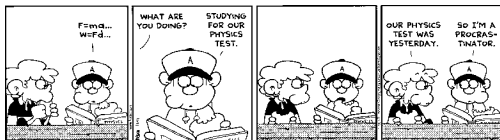
Better or Worse



Peanuts



Foxtrot



B.C.



Baby Blues



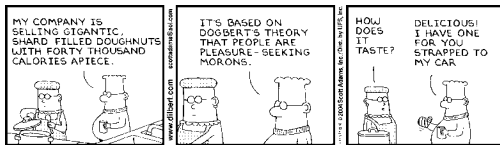
Spider Man



Blondie



Dilbert



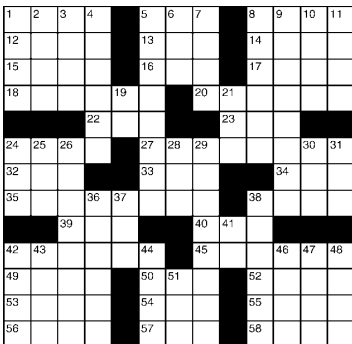
Hagar



Garfield



Eugene Sheffer Crossword



Across

- | | | |
|---------------------------|---------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1 Machu Picchu site | teammates | — State |
| 5 Terrible | 57 More, to Manuel | 25 "The Greatest" |
| 8 Skilled | 58 Category | 26 Astonished |
| 12 Fairy-tale preposition | Down | 28 U.S. med. research ctr. |
| 13 Jurist Lance | 11 Imago-to-be | 29 Dunces |
| 14 Plumbing problem | 2 Cast-of-thousands movie | 30 Freddy's street |
| 15 Sub-stance | 3 Sch. mil. org. | 31 Took off |
| 16 Solidify | 4 Open a clasp | 36 Slip-knotted loops |
| 17 Top-notch | 5 Fad | 37 B&B |
| 18 Approach aggressively | 6 Noshed | 38 Recluse |
| 20 Emissary | 7 Raggedy Ann, e.g. | 41 Per-forming |
| 22 Awed one's reaction | 8 Slow, in music | 42 Never again? |
| 23 Cover | 9 Thruster-goers' | 44 Line of fashion? |
| 24 Stare stupidly | 10 Fuzzy bits | 46 Ethereal |
| 27 Blooming | 11 Duel tools | 47 Stage-hand |
| 32 Value | 19 Therefore | 48 Restfulness |
| | 21 Right angle | 51 Geneticist's abbr. |

Down

- | | | | |
|-------------|-------------------------|----|--------------------------|
| 56 | Tackles' teammates | 24 | Idaho, the — State |
| 57 | More, to, Manuel | 25 | "The Greatest" |
| 58 | Category | 26 | Astonished |
| | | 27 | U. S. med. research ctr. |
| Down | | | |
| 1 | Imago-to-be | 29 | Dunces |
| 2 | Cast-of-thousands movie | 30 | Freddy's street |
| 3 | Sch. mil. org. | 31 | Take off |
| 4 | Open a clasp | 36 | Slip-knotted loops |
| 5 | Fad | 37 | B&B |
| 6 | Mediated | 38 | Recluse |
| 7 | Raggedy Ann, e.g. | 41 | Per-forming |
| 8 | Slow, in music | 42 | Never again? |
| 9 | Theater-goers' mecca | 43 | "Phooey!" |
| | | 44 | Line of fashion? |
| | | 46 | Ethereal |
| | | 47 | Age-hazy |
| | | 48 | Run-down |
| | | 51 | Geneticist's abbr. |
| 21 | Right angle | | |

Answer to Previous Puzzle



11-11 CRYPTOQUIP

CV C EOLRRDH L GDOILCM
NLOI TV QJ UKTD, L
NDOUTM GTWFH ULJ C'Q
KTFHCME QJ ITMEWD.
Yesterday's Cryptquip: WOULD A
DEPARTMENT STORE THAT SOLD STUCCO AND
PLASTER CHOOSE THE NAME WALL MART?
Today's Cryptquip Clue: D equals E

STRIPES CLASSIFIED

Jobs Offered 630

H&R Block Office
Need tax preparer for the Stuttgart H&R Block office. Will provide training for inexperienced person.

Contact:
Tel: 0711-6827006

Jobs Wanted 640

Honest person, good references, looking to share home/stairwells/PCs - WI area. Maria 0170-524796

Musical Instruments 740

Piano "Bidenia" dark Oak in excellent condition euro - 3,000 call 0173-8177058

Person to Person 800

Attractive German Lady, mid 40s Frankfurt area is seeking serious relationship with email address: maria@web.de

Single American professional female, 32-34 years old no children no smoking looking for single American professional male 30-37 yr. no children no smoking Heidelberg & Hanau area voice mail only 0175-9007339

Pets 820

• Purchase of listed pets is at buyer's risk. German Dog Club v.l. recommends checking breeder's club membership before any purchase

• Beautiful Labrador puppies, pure bred with steel skulls and tattoo. Black and yellow, can email photos, euro - 600. 0895728713 or 01605403324

• Boxer male 14 months train, house-trained, shots, comes with all accessories, € 200 call 0175-9865336

• Boxer & Rottweiler, pure-bred, shot, OADR 05426-5234 or puppies@wp.de euro400

• Dog, Bordeaux puppies and puppies, with all shots and wormed with papers, call 0175-645274

• Do you want your dog trained? Or want lessons with your dog? Schenker and Bad Kissingen area, call 09721-948511

• Free to good home 2 date, 1 male and 1 female 112 yrs old Husky, together call 01788144158 or 06579903696

• Jack Russell Terrier 4 months, good with kids, € 400, call 06151-696705 or 0160-2587568

• Miniature Dachshund pup, long and short, various colors, Euro 450 and up, purebred, shots, wormed, (Wuerzburg) area, call 0175-5357533

• Registered Persian kittens, white, black, blue and papers € 400, call 01158-916548

• English Bulldog puppies, wormed and shots, whippers, More puppies, wormed and shots, call 0631-342776 or 0175-6355503

• Free to Good Home Guinea Pig with cage & supplies included call 0171 1888 433 or 06150 601 409 (DAW/H&B area)

• Shagpel 6 months male with papers, beautiful rare breed, 6 x 11 call 06153-427766 or 0175-6355503

• Miniature Pin Red, with papers and shots, € 450 call 06151-9518395

Real Estate 850

• Exclusive Office Complex for rent in Karlsruhe (Landwirtschaft 44), 800 square meters of floor space available over 2 floors. Office sizes between 20 to 120 sq. meters, 2250 sq. meters parking available. For more information, call 0179-907733

Apartment Wanted 858

We need a house or ground floor apartment in the Völkerei/Südbach area min 125 sq. feet call 0162-2967718

Apartment Unfurn 856

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Religious Activities 871

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Central Texas College
EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY
Payroll Data Specialist and Personnel Data Specialist
- Central Texas College, Hanau
- Full-time position with benefits
- Associate's Degree from accredited institution or one year of college with minimum five years experience required
Contact: CTC, Attn Human Resources, DSN 322-8811, civ 06181-500811, or email: robin.alrich@europe.ctc.edu

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NBA scoreboard

Eastern Conference

Atlantic Division			
	W	L	Pct
Toronto	2	1	.667
New Jersey	2	1	.667
New York	2	1	.667
Philadelphia	1	2	.333

Southeast Division			
	W	L	Pct
Atlanta	0	3	.000
Orlando	0	3	.000
Washington	0	3	.000
Charlotte	0	3	.000
Indiana	0	3	.000

Central Division			
	W	L	Pct
Minnesota	4	0	1.000
San Antonio	3	1	.750
Memphis	3	1	.750
New Orleans	0	3	.000
Chicago	0	3	.000

Western Conference

Southwest Division			
	W	L	Pct
Dallas	4	1	.800
San Antonio	3	1	.750
Phoenix	3	1	.750
New Orleans	0	4	.000

Northwest Division			
	W	L	Pct
Utah	4	0	1.000
Seattle	3	1	.750
Minnesota	3	1	.750
Portland	2	2	.500
Denver	2	2	.500

Pacific Division			
	W	L	Pct
Phoenix	4	0	1.000
L.A. Lakers	3	1	.750
L.A. Clippers	3	1	.750
Golden State	2	2	.500

Tuesdays games			
Orlando 94, Dallas 83			
Atlanta 95, Atlanta 79			
Miami 103, Washington 93			
Los Angeles 102, Philadelphia 94			
New Jersey 64, Portland 60			
San Antonio 102, Denver 88			
L.A. Lakers 106, New Orleans 98			
Houston 90, Memphis 87			
San Antonio 102, Chicago 90			

Wednesday's games			
Atlanta at Washington			
Portland at Boston			
New Jersey at Philadelphia			
Phoenix at New Orleans			
Phoenix at Cleveland			
Charlotte at Memphis			
Charlotte at Milwaukee			
Golden State at San Antonio			
Toronto at Utah			

Thursday's games			
Dallas at Boston			
Minnesota at Houston			
San Antonio at Dallas			
Portland at Seattle			

Friday's games			
Charlotte at Boston			
Indiana at Philadelphia			
Portland at New Orleans			
L.A. Clippers at New York			
Phoenix at New Orleans			
Golden State at Memphis			
Portland at New Orleans			
Toronto at Seattle			

Saturday's games			
Dallas at Boston			
Minnesota at Houston			
San Antonio at Dallas			
Portland at Seattle			

Sunday's games			
Charlotte at Boston			
Indiana at Philadelphia			
Portland at New Orleans			
L.A. Clippers at New York			
Phoenix at New Orleans			
Golden State at Memphis			
Portland at New Orleans			
Toronto at Seattle			

Monday's games			
Charlotte at Boston			
Indiana at Philadelphia			
Portland at New Orleans			
L.A. Clippers at New York			
Phoenix at New Orleans			
Golden State at Memphis			
Portland at New Orleans			
Toronto at Seattle			

Tuesday			
Magic 94, Mavericks 84			

DALLAS			
J. Howard	22	2	20.0
D. Anderson	15	2	20.0
H. Davis	12	2	20.0
H. Davis	12	2	20.0
H. Davis	12	2	20.0
H. Davis	12	2	20.0
H. Davis	12	2	20.0
H. Davis	12	2	20.0
H. Davis	12	2	20.0
H. Davis	12	2	20.0

ORLANDO			
H. Davis	12	2	20.0
H. Davis	12	2	20.0
H. Davis	12	2	20.0
H. Davis	12	2	20.0
H. Davis	12	2	20.0
H. Davis	12	2	20.0
H. Davis	12	2	20.0
H. Davis	12	2	20.0
H. Davis	12	2	20.0
H. Davis	12	2	20.0

CLEVELAND			
J. Howard	22	2	20.0
D. Anderson	15	2	20.0
H. Davis	12	2	20.0
H. Davis	12	2	20.0
H. Davis	12	2	20.0
H. Davis	12	2	20.0
H. Davis	12	2	20.0
H. Davis	12	2	20.0
H. Davis	12	2	20.0
H. Davis	12	2	20.0

MINNESOTA			
J. Howard	22	2	20.0
D. Anderson	15	2	20.0
H. Davis	12	2	20.0
H. Davis	12	2	20.0
H. Davis	12	2	20.0
H. Davis	12	2	20.0
H. Davis	12	2	20.0
H. Davis	12	2	20.0
H. Davis	12	2	20.0
H. Davis	12	2	20.0

MINNESOTA			
J. Howard	22	2	20.0
D. Anderson	15	2	20.0
H. Davis	12	2	20.0
H. Davis	12	2	20.0
H. Davis	12	2	20.0
H. Davis	12	2	20.0
H. Davis	12	2	20.0
H. Davis	12	2	20.0
H. Davis	12	2	20.0
H. Davis	12	2	20.0

MINNESOTA			
J. Howard	22	2	20.0
D. Anderson	15	2	20.0
H. Davis	12	2	20.0
H. Davis	12	2	20.0
H. Davis	12	2	20.0
H. Davis	12	2	20.0
H. Davis	12	2	20.0
H. Davis	12	2	20.0
H. Davis	12	2	20.0
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MINNESOTA			
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D. Anderson	15	2	20.0
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H. Davis	12	2	20.0

Atlantic Division			
	W	L	Pct
Toronto	2	1	.667
New Jersey	2	1	.667
New York	2	1	.667
Philadelphia	1	2	.333

Southeast Division			
	W	L	Pct
Atlanta	0	3	.000
Orlando	0	3	.000
Washington	0	3	.000
Charlotte	0	3	.000
Indiana	0	3	.000

Central Division			
	W	L	Pct
Minnesota	4	0	1.000
San Antonio	3	1	.750
Memphis	3	1	.750
New Orleans	0	3	.000
Chicago	0	3	.000

Western Conference			
	W	L	Pct
Dallas	4	1	.800
San Antonio	3	1	.750
Phoenix	3	1	.750
New Orleans	0	4	.000

Northwest Division			
	W	L	Pct
Utah	4	0	1.000
Seattle	3	1	.750
Minnesota	3	1	.750
Portland	2	2	.500
Denver	2	2	.500

Pacific Division			
	W	L	Pct
Phoenix	4	0	1.000
L.A. Lakers	3	1	.750
L.A. Clippers	3	1	.750
Golden State	2	2	.500

Tuesdays games			
Orlando 94, Dallas 83			
Atlanta 95, Atlanta 79			
Miami 103, Washington 93			
Los Angeles 102, Philadelphia 94			
New Jersey 64, Portland 60			
San Antonio 102, Denver 88			
L.A. Lakers 106, New Orleans 98			
Houston 90, Memphis 87			
San Antonio 102, Chicago 90			

Wednesday's games			
Atlanta at Washington			
Portland at Boston			
New Jersey at Philadelphia			
Phoenix at New Orleans			
Phoenix at Cleveland			
Charlotte at Memphis			
Charlotte at Milwaukee			
Golden State at San Antonio			
Toronto at Utah			

ford 8-19 4-2 Z, Marbury 4-12 4-4 13, Sweet-				
ney 4-4 1-2 9, Ariza 5-9 4-6 14, Hardaway 2-5				
0-0 4, Williams 0-0 1-2 1. Totals 37-77 19-28 96				
Philadelphia	18	24	25	21-88
New York	27	28	21	20-96
Three Point	Goals	Philadelphia	7	13

Boras holds all the cards at GM meetings

Formidable agent represents prized free agents Beltran, Beltre, Ordonez

By BEN WALKER
The Associated Press

KEY BISCAYNE, Fla. — Scott Boras leaned back against an enormous arrangement made from hundreds of pink roses, breathed in and liked the smell.

His view this offseason is pretty sweet, too.

Because in the baseball world, he might be the biggest impact player right now, representing Carlos Beltran, Adrian Beltre, Magglio Ordonez and several other prime free agents.

"I've heard from all teams, I've talked to all teams," Boras said Tuesday, standing in the hotel lobby where the general managers meetings were being held.

While GMs debated moving back the July 31 trade deadline, reshaping the Arizona Fall League and other procedural topics, their real business never strayed very far from players.

And along with that talented trio of hitters, Boras is the agent for J.D. Drew, Derek Lowe, Jason Varitek and Kevin Millwood.

"He's got a very special class," New York Mets GM Omar Minaya said.

Beltran might seek a 10-year deal after his phenomenal postseason with Houston, and Beltre may look for something similar after his MVP-caliber year with Los Angeles.

Ordonez, if he proves he's healed after his knee surgery, could command a healthy contract. The four-time All-Star outfielder played only 52 games for the Chicago White Sox this year because of knee trouble.

Ordonez walked through the hotel during the day, on his way to a meeting. At next month's winter meetings in Anaheim, Calif., he'll probably go through running drills for teams that are interested.

"People just want to see that he's healthy," Boras said.

Coming off Boston's win in the World Series, Varitek wants to catch onto a five-year deal. Lowe also is well positioned after winning the clinching game in the first round of the playoffs, the ALCS and the World Series.

Only a few teams might be willing to spend the kind of money Boras' guys want. Of course, the New York Yankees are at the top of that list, despite any rumblings

that they're worried about a \$200 million budget.

"This is my 24th year of doing this, and the Yankees' payroll has been 'dangerously' high '24 of '24,'" Boras said. "They've been the Goliath of the game, and I don't expect their position to change."

Which would put them in perfect position to get Beltran, a five-to-six center fielder. The Yankees already have Bernie Williams playing that position — he's another Boras client.

Not to worry, the agent said.

"That's something between Carlos and Bernie," Boras said. "That's something they've talked about and dealt with."

Their conversation took place during the season. Boras said, and he did not reveal the details or whether that meant the Yankees were the front-runners to sign Beltran.

So many potential moves this winter revolve about where top free agents might go, with Pedro Martinez, Nomar Garciaparra, Troy Glaus and Carl Pavano among those available. While the winter meetings usually produce more action, there's a chance some big-name players could move before that session Dec. 10-13.

"This is a time when many owners call," Boras said. "When you deal with owners, timetables run short."

Boras would not mention any interested owners or particular suitors for his players. Until Friday, teams can talk money only with their own free agents.

Come next month, there could be several trades. For now, teams talked about whether to change the July 31 deadline for making deals without waivers — it can be tricky, though St. Louis was able to get Larry Walker from Colorado in early August.

Atlanta GM John Schuerholz, Milwaukee assistant郭 Ash and several others are fine with that date. Yankees GM Brian Cashman, who has made his share of late deals for the postseason push, would like to see it moved back. No formal vote was taken, though there could be some sentiment for making it Aug. 15.

"I just think that with the wild-card issue, there are so many teams in it and they could use more time to decide if it's a real opportunity or not," Cashman said. "I would hate to be in a situation where you think you have a real shot and you hate to start selling off veterans."

Strong start for Clemens as MLB stars fall in Japan

The Associated Press

OSAKA, Japan — Roger Clemens looked little like a pitcher ready to retire.

Throwing on just a few hours' sleep after learning he'd won the NL Cy Young Award at age 42, Clemens held the Japanese All-Stars to three runs on eight hits in 5½ innings Wednesday

during a tour of Japan by major leaguers.

Backed by the two-hit pitching of Hisashi Iwakuma, the Japanese squad won 3-1 for their first win in the fifth game of the exhibition tour.

But all eyes were on Clemens. "I had a great deal of fun," he said. "All things considered, my body felt great. I'm extremely tired right now but was working on Adrenalin."

Clemens, who went 18-4 with a 2.98 ERA and 218 strikeouts for his hometown Houston Astros, won his record seventh Cy Young on Tuesday. He heard about the honor in a 1:00 a.m. phone call from Major League Baseball. After a bit of shuteye, Clemens got up for a conference call with reporters, then was off to a promotional event in downtown Osaka.

He's the oldest Cy Young Award winner, Gaylord Perry was 40 when he won the award in 1978.

Clemens would say definitely whether he'll play again. He briefly retired last offseason after helping the Yankees reach the



Houston Astros pitcher Roger Clemens holds up seven fingers at a news conference in Japan on Wednesday. Clemens, who has his seventh Cy Young Award on Tuesday, pitched 5½ innings on Wednesday for a group of touring MLB stars against a Japan all-star team.

World Series, then eventually decided to join the Astros. "I know there are some people in the Houston organization who want to talk to me," Clemens said. "I just don't know yet."

Expos ballpark vote delayed

WASHINGTON — The District of Columbia Council delayed a vote on funding a new ballpark for the Expos, with Council Chair Linda Cropp proposing another new plan Tuesday.

Last week, Cropp said the new ballpark should be adjacent to RFK Stadium rather than at the site south of the U.S. Capitol called for in the agreement Washington signed with the Expos in September.

That original deal called for \$435 million to be spent on site acquisition, a new ballpark and refurbishing RFK Stadium as a temporary home for the team for the next three seasons.

On Tuesday, Cropp proposed that the ballpark remain at the site specified in the agreement, but said the city should pay \$150 million and that a private entity

be responsible for \$350 million.

Mayor Anthony A. Williams called the delay a setback but said he will push for enactment of the original plan, which requires approval from a majority of the council's 13 members.

Cardinals to host Red Sox in World Series rematch

ST. LOUIS — The St. Louis Cardinals will get another shot at the Boston Red Sox next season.

After sweeping St. Louis in the World Series last month, the Red Sox will make their first regular-season visit to Busch Stadium from June 6-8, 2005. Both teams probably will look a lot different.

Coming off the club's first title in 86 years, 16 Boston players filed for free agency, including stars such as Pedro Martinez, Derek Lowe, Jason Varitek and Orlando Cabrera. Nine Cardinals will test the open market, including Matt Morris, Woody Williams, Edgar Renteria, Mike Matheny and Tony Womack.

The Cardinals plan to move into a new ballpark in 2006, making next year their 40th and final season at Busch Stadium.

Showalter, Cox voted top managers of 2004

By RONALD BLUM
The Associated Press

NEW YORK — Bobby Cox was voted NL Manager of the Year on Wednesday for leading the rebuilt Atlanta Braves to a record 13th straight division title, and Buck Showalter won the AL honor after his Texas Rangers went from also-ran to contender.

Cox received 22 first-place votes and 10 seconds for 140 points to win easily. Tony La Russa of St. Louis, who has won four manager of the year awards, was second with 62 points, and Jim Tracy of Los Angeles was third with 52.

It was the third award for Cox, who won in the AL with Toronto in 1985 and in the NL with the Braves in 1991, the first year of Atlanta's record run.

Showalter kept Texas in the chase for a playoff berth until the final week of the season after four straight last-place finishes.

He received 14 first-place votes, nine seconds and four thirds for 101 points, finishing ahead of Minnesota's Ron Gardenhire, who got 11 firsts, 11 seconds and three thirds for 91 points.

Showalter also won the award in 1994 with the New York Yankees.

Gardenhire, who managed the Twins to their third straight AL Central title, finished second in the voting for the second straight season.

Atlanta was expected to finish no better than third in the NL East after slashing its payroll. But the Braves went 96-66 and finished 10 games ahead of second-place Philadelphia before losing 3-2 to Houston in the first round of the playoffs.

Despite trading AL MVP Alex Rodriguez to the New York Yankees, Texas went 89-73 — its most wins since 1999 — and finished third in the AL West behind Anaheim and Oakland, just three games out of first.

'Cursed' contract fails to sell on eBay

The Associated Press

PROVIDENCE, R.I. — The contract that sent Babe Ruth from the Boston Red Sox to the New York Yankees failed to sell on an Internet auction site Tuesday.

Bidding on the famous document topped out at \$70,100. Alan Shawn Feinstein, the Providence philanthropist who put the contract up for sale, didn't accept the bid because he believed the document is worth more.

Feinstein, who made millions

in financial publications and has given away millions to schools and anti-hunger programs, put the contract on eBay Oct. 30, three days after the Red Sox swept the St. Louis Cardinals to win their first World Series championship in 86 years.

With the faded "Curse of the Bambino" finally over, Feinstein decided it was the perfect time to sell the contract and give the proceeds to charity.

The online auction began at \$50,000 and attracted more than 200 bids. Twenty-six bids over \$1 million were retracted or canceled.

Hot stove league: Team-by-team preview

By BOB DUTTON
The Kansas City (Mo.) Star

AL Central

Chicago White Sox (83-79)

Looking to transform themselves into more of a pitching-and-defense team. That means finding another starter and trying to trade 1B Paul Konerko and possibly OF Carlos Lee and 3B Jose Crede.

Buzz: Planning to offer SS Omar Vizquel a two-year deal for \$8 million.

Cleveland Indians (80-62)

Top priority is to find a proven starter to bolster the rotation.

Strong farm system creates several trade possibilities, including OF Coco Crisp, 1B Josh Phelps and 2B SS Brandon Phillips. Would love to trade OF Matt Lawton. Have more than \$15 million to spend.

Buzz: Planning to make strong push to sign RHP Brad Radke. Fallback choice is RHP Matt Clement.

Detroit Tigers (72-91)

Also looking for a front-line starter, and owner Mike Ilich says he's willing to spend. Looking to trade RHP Jason Johnson and OF Ronell White. Would love to dump OF Bobby Higginson.

Buzz: Top target appears to be RHP Derek Lowe.

Kansas City Royals (58-104)

Seeking a young, power-hitting corner outfielder. Also have a short-term need for a third baseman until top prospect Mark Teahen arrives. Budget concerns limit ability to add a dependable starter.

Buzz: Making a trade of LHP Darrell May makes a trade of LHP Brian Anderson less likely.

Buzz: Still hoping to interest Texas in a package for OF Kevin Mench.

Minnesota Twins (82-70)

Will need a top-quality starter if they can't retain RHP Brad Radke. Have already declined option on SS Cristian Guzman but hoping to sign him to cheaper deal. 3B Corey Koskie is also a free agent.

Buzz: Hoping to trade OF Jake Jones to create payroll flexibility and open space for younger players.

Buzz: Everything hinges on whether Radke accepts two-year offer for \$15 million.

AL East

Baltimore Orioles (78-84)

Looking to add a couple of starters and a high-impact bat. Question is whether owner Peter Angelos is willing to spend as he did in the past after seeing his market trimmed by the Expos moving to Washington.

Buzz: Early leader in the pack chasing 1B Carlos Delgado; also will pursue OF Magglio Ordonez.

Boston Red Sox (98-64)

Champs are facing a boatload of free-agent questions, most notably RHP Pedro Martinez, RHP Derek Lowe, C Jason Varitek and SS Orlando Cabrera. Lowe seems certain to depart, which creates need for another starter. Other departures would create more holes.

Buzz: Targeting Carl Pavano and Brad Radke as top replacement candidates in rotation.

New York Yankees (101-61)

Does anybody really believe the rumor that owner George Steinbrenner intends to curtail spending after seeing his high-priced roster fall again to win the World Series?

Didn't think so. Expect the Yankees to pursue a couple of starting pitchers and a high-impact center fielder. Want to dump RHP Kevin Brown and will seek to trade RHP Javier Vazquez.

Buzz: Pedro Martinez and/or Nomar Garciaparra in pinpricks? It's a possibility. Will also likely seek the bar in the Carlos Beltran sweepstakes.

Tampa Bay Devil Rays (70-91)

Manager Lou Piniella says he needs two front-line starters and two high-impact bats. On the Rays' payroll? Good luck. Also reeling from news that OF Rocco Baldelli could miss a month or more next season after suffering a torn knee ligament last week playing baseball with his younger brother.

Buzz: Considering an offer for OF Juan Gonzalez.

Toronto Blue Jays (67-94)

Expected departure of free-agent 1B Carlos Delgado frees \$18.5 million in payroll. That should be enough to rebuild the bullpen (again) and add at least one high-impact bat.

Buzz: Appearing willing to trade 2B Orlando Hudson.

AL West

Anaheim Angels (92-70)

Have already jettisoned 3B Troy Glaus and RHP Troy Percival but have replacements ready — Dallas McPherson and Francisco Rodriguez.

Also want to trade OF Jose Guillen. Top needs are another starter and a center fielder. Owner Arne Moreno is ready to fund another major shopping spree in the free-agent market.

Buzz: Chasing hard after OF Carlos Beltran and RHP Pedro Martinez.

Oakland Athletics (91-71)

Looking for a power-hitting outfielder after declining \$14 million option on Jermaine Dye. Appearing willing to trade one of their three marquee pitchers. Most likely candidate is LHP Barry Zito, who

Analysis

has slipped in last two seasons after winning the 2002 Cy Young Award.

Buzz: Talking to C Gregg Zaun about replacing Damian Miller.

Seattle Mariners (63-99)

Lots of needs on a team that aged fast in past two seasons. Wish list starts with a first baseman, an outfielder with pop, a front-line starter and a reliever.

Buzz: Targeting 1B Carlos Delgado because their pockets aren't deep enough to pursue OF Carlos Beltran. Also talking to D-backs about 1B Richie Sexson.

Texas Rangers (89-73)

Much centers on 2B Alfonso Soriano, who could be traded if Soriano continues to resist offers to shift to the outfield. Looking to bolster rotation but want to be prudent and avoid another Chan Ho Park fiasco.

Buzz: Could ship Soriano back to the Yankees for RHP Javier Vazquez.

NL Central

Chicago Cubs (89-73)

Lots of big names in play. Working hard to trade OF Sammy Sosa, whose complaining increased since his skills declined. Also hoping to retain free-agent SS Nomar Garciaparra, but OF Moises Alou is probably headed elsewhere. Needs depend on the return for Sosa but include bullpen help and a high-impact bat if Alou departs.

Buzz: Will make strong push to sign OF Carlos Beltran, especially if they can trade Sosa.

Cincinnati Reds (76-86)

The staff needs an overhaul, but ownership won't spend, so any changes will come through trades or low-risk signings. Trade possibilities include OF Ken Griffey Jr., RHP Danny Dams and even 1B Sean Casey.

Buzz: Eyeing INF Poley Reese as a replacement for SS Barry Larkin.

Houston Astros (92-70)

What a rough offseason. OF Lance Berkman is expected to be sidelined for six months after suffering a torn knee ligament while playing in a charity flag-football game. OF Carlos Beltran is certain to leave; RHP Roger Clemens is pondering retirement (again); and 2B Jeff Kent is already gone after club declined 2005 option.

Buzz: Clemens doesn't expect to decide about retirement until January, which could be too late to find a capable replacement.

Milwaukee Brewers (67-94)

Much depends on how much payroll jumps under new ownership group.

Top need is to bolster a weak lineup, which torpedoes team in the second half. Priorities include a power-hitting outfielder, a third baseman and a catcher.

Buzz: Will see whether OFs Jermaine Dye and Richard Hidalgo fall into their price range.

Pittsburgh Pirates (72-89)

Anticipating few changes, although they would like to add a corner infielder with some pop. Might be willing to trade RHP Kip Wells.

Buzz: Appearing close to signing RHP Jose Mesa to a one-year extension.

St. Louis Cardinals (105-67)

Might need to rebuild their rotation because RHPs Woody Williams and Matt Morris are eligible for free agency. So is SS Edgar Renteria. The priority is to keep Renteria.

Buzz: Talking to Arizona about deal for LHP Randy Johnson and planning to pursue RHP Carl Pavano. Could also turn to SS Orlando Cabrera if Renteria's price gets too high.

NL West

Arizona Diamondbacks (51-111)

All sorts of needs and not a lot of cash. LHP Randy Johnson is certain to be traded to free up payroll and acquire bodies. Next question is whether they can retain free-agent 1B Richie Sexson. Need a reliable shortstop to replace struggling Alex Cintron.

Buzz: Johnson could go to the Yankees for C Jorge Posada.

Colorado Rockies (68-94)

Another off-season of bottom-feeding in an effort to trim payroll and plug holes. Really want to dump C Charles Johnson and his \$9 million salary. Appearing willing to listen to offers for 1B Todd Helton.

Buzz: Hoping to sign OF Kenny Lofton for low bucks; talking to Orioles about trading RHP Shawn Chacon for RHP Jorge Julio.

Los Angeles Dodgers (93-69)

Top priority is to retain free-agent 3B Adrian Beltré, whose figures to be costly after his monster year. He's also a Scott Boras client. If Beltré stays, the top need is for a catcher who can hit.

Might also pursue an outfielder if free-agent Steve Finley departs.

Buzz: Pondering a Shawn Green-for-Sammy Sosa deal with the Yankees. Likely to pursue 3B Troy Glaus if Beltré departs.

San Diego Padres (87-75)

Spacious Petco Park requires that the outfield be retooled with fleet, defensive players. That means Ryan Klesko has to go in a free-agent package, which means Phil Nevin would have to go. Will need another starter if free-agent LHP David Wells de-

parts. Growing impatient with 3B Sean Burroughs' lack of power.

Buzz: Want to sign OF Steve Finley.

San Francisco Giants (91-71)

Looking to trade C A.J. Pierzynski and not likely to retain free-agent OF Marquis Grissom. Needs include shortstop, an outfielder and a catcher, unless they decide Yorvit Torrealba is ready to replace Pierzynski on a regular basis.

Buzz: Could pursue RHP Troy Percival to anchor bullpen.

NL East

Atlanta Braves (96-66)

Major issues are all in-house. Likely to retain free-agent RHP Greg Maddux as he seeks efforts to trim payroll. But Smokey Joe will turn to the rotation for the first time since 1999. Also facing free-agent decisions on RHP Russ Ortiz, Jaret Wright and Paul Byrd and OF J.D. Drew. Byrd seems most likely to go.

Buzz: Willing to take RHP Kevin Brown. Yankees set most of his \$15 million contract for 2005.

Florida Marlins (83-79)

Looking to cut about \$15 million in payroll while dealing with 12 free agents and eight arbitration-eligible players. Probably won't be able to retain RHP Carl Pavano or closer Armando Benitez. Expected needs include one or two starters and at least one outfielder.

Buzz: Could emerge as a destination for OF Sammy Sosa if Cubs set most of his salary.

New York Mets (71-91)

Much depends on whether LHP Piazza remains a catcher, shifts to first base or gets traded. Will almost certainly pursue a high-impact outfielder; they also want a front-line starter (two, if they can't re-sign RHP Kris Benson). Hoping to trade Cliff Floyd, who might be better suited as a DH in the American League. Also trying to work out deal with Cubs to acquire OF Sammy Sosa. Also talking to Angels about OF Jose Guillen.

Philadelphia Phillies (86-76)

Top need is a high-impact center fielder but probably lack payroll punch to pursue Carlos Beltran. Need at least one front-line starter.

Free-agent RHP Kevin Millwood is likely elsewhere, and free-agent LHP Eric Milton is a fly-ball pitcher who is ill-suited for cozy Citizens Bank Park.

Buzz: Interested in signing RHP Derek Lowe. Yankees will probably inquire about OF Steve Finley.

Washington Expos (87-95)

Everything is pretty much on hold until they secure an ownership group.

Buzz: New general manager Jim Bowden could fill SS hole by signing Barry Larkin.

Wake's Paul tops All-America team

Guard leads season of great expectations in Winston-Salem

BY JIM O'CONNELL

The Associated Press

Chris Paul is going to hear Tim Duncan's name a lot this season.

The sophomore guard from Wake Forest was the leading vote-getter Tuesday on The Associated Press' preseason All-America team, joining Duncan as the only players from the school to earn that honor.

Paul received 55 votes from a national media panel to make the team along with four seniors: Lawrence Roberts of Mississippi State (50 votes), Wayne Simien of Kansas (40), Julius Hodge of North Carolina State (41), and Hakim Warrick of Syracuse (33).

The Demon Deacons are second in the preseason Top 25, matching the highest ranking in school history. The previous stays at No. 2 came when Duncan played at Wake Forest.

Paul led the Demon Deacons to the round of 16 in the NCAA tournament last season, the first time they got that far since 1997, Duncan's last year.

"One of the hardest things for Chris to understand last year was that I trust him completely," Wake Forest coach Skip Prosser said. "I want him to play, not to think."

The 6-foot Paul averaged 14.8 points, 3.3 rebounds and 5.9 assists last season while shooting 49.6 percent from the field and 84.3 from the free-throw line. As his freshman season unfolded, he became one of the premier players in the Atlantic Coast Conference.

"I just love the way he commands a game," Prosser said. "Despite his angelic appearance, he's extremely competitive.... He's not without flaws, but I wouldn't trade him for any other guard in the ACC."

Roberts is one of two returning All-Americans from last season.

Ryan Gomes of Providence is the other, but



Guard Chris Paul, above, joined Tim Duncan as the only Wake Forest players to lead voting for the AP preseason All-America team. The No. 2 Demon Deacons start their season Nov. 15 at home against George Washington.

he finished sixth in voting for the preseason team.

The 6-foot-9 Roberts started his college career at Baylor and left there when the program fell into disarray after a player was killed. He averaged 16.9 points and 10.1 rebounds for the Bulldogs last season and many people thought he would leave for the NBA.

"Nothing's going to change in a year, unless, God forbid, an injury or something like that happens. Everything's going to work itself out," Roberts said. "Any time I see a person return, I see it as a positive."

The other three players also put off a shot to play with the pros.

Simien averaged 17.8 points and 8.3 rebounds as a junior for the Jayhawks, the No. 1 team in the preseason rankings. The 6-9 Simien, who shot 53 percent from the field and 81 percent from the line, battled knee, shoulder and groin injuries during his first three seasons.

"He is the most improved player on our team," Kansas coach Bill Self said. "If he's able to stay healthy, and I believe he will, I think he can play to that level. He's improved a lot."

Hodge was the ACC player of the year last season after averaging 18.2 points, 6.4 rebounds and 3.6 assists for the Wolfpack, who finished second in the league. He was second in the conference in scoring and led it in shooting (51.3 percent).

But the season ended with a loss to Vanderbilt in the second round of the NCAA tournament, a game Hodge fouled out with less than 3 minutes to play.

"That was the game we lost and we've gotten better since then," Hodge said. "So we can use that as a learning tool, and it gives us that much more experience and makes us that much better for the upcoming season."

Warrick was a key member of Syracuse's national championship team in 2002 and he'll be part of an inside-outside combination this season with junior guard Gerry McNamara.

"I put a lot of pressure on myself," said Warrick, who flirted with entering the NBA Draft after averaging 19.8 points and 8.6 rebounds as a junior. "I came back for a reason, and that was to be the No. 1 player in the country, come back and win a national championship." Jaameer Nelson of Saint Joseph's and Emeka Okafor of Connecticut both were preseason and postseason All-Americans last year. The other players on the 2003-04 preseason team were Ricky Paulding of Missouri, Ike Ogburn of Arizona State, and Raymond Felton of North Carolina.

Sophomore guard leads vote-getters

Chris Paul of Wake Forest was the leading vote-getter selected to The Associated Press' preseason All-America team. A look at the starters:

Chris Paul

Guard
Wake Forest, So.
6 ft., 0 in.

As a freshman, was one of the premier players in the ACC. Averaged 14.8 points and 3.3 rebounds while shooting 49.6 percent from the field.



Julius Hodge

Guard/Forward
N.C. State, Sr.
6 ft., 3 in.

Was the ACC player of the year last season. Was second in the conference in scoring and led in shooting at 51.3 percent.



Lawrence Roberts

Forward
Mississippi State, Sr.
6 ft., 9 in.

Returning All-America from last season. Averaged 16.9 points and 10.1 rebounds.



Wayne Simien

Forward
Kansas, Sr.
6 ft., 9 in.

Average 17.8 points and 8.3 rebounds, shot 53 percent from the field and 81 percent from the line.



Hakim Warrick

Forward
Syracuse, Sr.
6 ft., 8 in.

Finished entering the NBA Draft after averaging 19.8 points and 8.6 rebounds.



LSU dynamo Augustus heads women's list

BY CHUCK SCHOFFNER

The Associated Press

Give Simone Augustus the basketball and watch her go to work.

Nothing is more comforting to the LSU Lady Tigers — or more unsettling for their opponents.

"When she touches the ball," LSU coach Pokey Chatman said, "something special is going to happen."

Augustus has tormented defenders for two years and the accolades have poured in. She received another Tuesday as the No. 1 choice on The Associated Press' preseason All-America team.

The 6-foot-1 junior received 44 of 45 votes from a national media panel. She was joined on the team by Minnesota's Janel McCarville (35 votes), Kansas State's Kendra Wecker (33), Tennessee's Shyra Ely (20) and Notre Dame's Jacqueline Bateaux (19).

Augustus, Ely and Wecker were third-team All-Americans last season, while McCarville and Bateaux were honorable mentions.

Augustus, a starter from the day she arrived at LSU, averaged 19.4 points and 6.0 rebounds last season and was at her best in the NCAA tournament. She strung together games of 21, 26, 29 and 29 points in leading LSU to its first Final Four appearance.

"In my opinion, she is the best player in the country," said Baylor coach Kim Mulkey-Robertson, whose team plays LSU on Sunday. "I go back to the Cheryl Miller days, the Cynthia Cooper days. She is that kind of player."

Also a stronger player, said Chatman, who would like to see her star make better use of her free throw shooting. Augustus shot 90 percent from the line last season but averaged only three attempts a game.

"She's taking more contact," Chatman said. "Sometimes I tell her she lets the defense off the hook. When you shoot 90 percent from the line, you should try to get there more often."

While Augustus plays with a fluid athleticism, McCarville's

AP preseason women's All-America team

The Associated Press' 2004-05 preseason women's All-America basketball team, with school, year, height, position, votes from a 45-member national media panel and key stats from last season:

Simone Augustus, LSU, Jr., 6-1, 40 pts., 12.4 rbs., 6.0 rbs., 1.6 steals, 59.1 pct., 38.1 pct.

Janel McCarville, Minnesota, Sr., 5-2, 35, 16.1 pts., 10.8 rbs., 2.9 steals, 61.6 pct.

Kendra Wecker, Kansas, Sr., 5-7, 33, 16.8 pts., 8.1 rbs., 1.9 steals, 59.6 pct.

Shyra Ely, Tennessee, Sr., 6-2, 20, 14.5 pts., 6.0 rbs., 4.0 pct.

Jacqueline Bateaux, Notre Dame, Sr., 6-2, 19, 15, 16.0 pts., 8.6 rbs., 2.5 assists, 57.1 pct.

game is built on strength and power in the low block. But like Augustus, the 6-2 senior was sensational in regional play while leading the Gophers to their first Final Four.

McCarville averaged 19.4 points and 15.0 rebounds in five NCAA games, setting a tournament record with 75 rebounds. For the season, she averaged a double-double (16.1 points, 10.8 rebounds) and shot 61.6 percent.

"She has already proven she is a dominating player in the paint

and the premier post player in the country," Minnesota coach Pam Borton said. "This season she has the chance to become the best player in the nation overall."

McCarville has to overcome a minor setback. A broken bone in her left hand will keep her out of at least two games.

Wecker, a 5-11 senior, assumes more responsibility at Kansas State now that All-America center Nicole Ohlde is gone. Even with Ohlde around, Wecker got plenty of opportunities last season, averaging 16.8 points and 8.1 rebounds.

She needs 518 points to pass Ohlde as the Big 12's career scoring leader. Wecker scored 521 last season.

"Playing out here in the Midwest, we don't receive a lot of recognition like some of the big powerhouse schools such as Tennessee, Duke and UConn," Wecker said.

Ely is the third preseason All-America with Final Four experience. She averaged 14.5 points

and 8.0 rebounds last season to lead a balanced Tennessee team that lost to Connecticut in the national championship game.

This season, the 6-2 senior is being counted on to do more.

"We need for her to be a defensive stopper and on a defensive go-to," coach Pat Summitt said. "There's no question she's ready for it. I think that starts in practice and she's demonstrated she wants that role."

Reliability has been the mark of Bateaux's career at Notre Dame. The 6-2 senior has started 64 straight games and scored in double figures in 72 of 90 games.

Bateaux averaged 16.0 points and 8.6 rebounds last season in helping Notre Dame reach the East Regional semifinals. She wants more this season, namely a trip down the highway to Indianapolis and the Final Four.

"We all have one goal in mind and we're going to do everything possible to make that happen," Bateaux said. "Individual awards are great, but the success of this team is what this season will be all about."

Dolphins bemoan coach's 'bad hand'

BY STEVEN WINE

The Associated Press

DAVIE, Fla. — As linebacker Zach Thomas and cornerback Sam Madison spoke, their voices broke with emotion, and general manager Rick Spielman talked while fighting back tears.

The topic of conversation was departed coach Dave Wannstedt. He went just 1-8 this season with the Miami Dolphins, but they were nonetheless sorry to see him go.

"To lose a guy like that, it's tough," Madison said. "It's love." Wannstedt said Tuesday he resigned because relentless speculation about his future had become a distraction for the team.

Defensive coordinator Jim Bates was promoted to interim coach, and management immediately began a search for a coach in 2005.

A wave of injuries and the retirement of running back Ricky Williams contributed to this year's transformation of the long-pride franchise into a laugh-inducing stock with the NFL's worst record.

"Dave got dealt a bad hand," Thomas said. "A lot of things have been uncontrollable. It just snowballed."

The coaching change came during the Dolphins' bye week, and two days after perhaps their most wrenching defeat yet. They twice blew a lead against the Arizona Cardinals, who scored in the final seconds Sunday to win 24-23 and break a 17-game road losing streak.

On Monday, Wannstedt requested a meeting with owner Wayne Huizenga and said he had decided to step down. Huizenga wanted Wannstedt to coach the rest of the season but reluctantly accepted the resignation, team president Eddie Jones said.

"I have too much respect for



An unidentified fan holds his nose as the Dolphins allow the Cardinals to score the winning touchdown in the final minute on Sunday.

the players and owner of this organization to allow myself to be the focal point for the remainder of the season," Wannstedt said at a news conference. "I told the players today the team must come first. This is what's best for our team."

Attendance has been in steep decline, but while Wannstedt's departure gave fans cause for celebration, the mood was gloomy at the team complex. Defensive end Jason Taylor reacted sharply to a question about Wannstedt quitting.

"Let's get this straight: Dave didn't quit," Taylor said. "Ricky Williams quit. Dave stepped aside. There's a big difference. Anybody who watched Dave on Sunday saw how much it hurt him. That's not a man who quit. That's a beaten man, a man who has watched a lot the last two or three years."

Williams took that criticism in stride.

"The way I look at it is I consider a lot of the guys in Miami friends. If everyone is using me as a scapegoat, I'm happy for that. Really. If it makes all the players feel better, then I'm all for that," he told The Palm Beach Post in a phone interview Tuesday.

Despite a 43-33 record in 4½ seasons with Miami, Wannstedt had been on the hot seat for some time because his lone playoff victory came four years ago. The Dolphins are one defeat from their

first losing season since 1988 and have become the butt of jokes.

Wannstedt didn't mention Williams by name but said there were a lot of reasons for the decline.

"Many of those things I had no control over," he said. "But those things are not important today. Nobody wants to hear about excuses. Someone has to accept the ultimate responsibility. I'm the head coach, and that falls on me." Speculation regarding the next coach began weeks ago. Mentioned as possible coaching candidates have been former Florida Gators coach Steve Spurrier, LSU's Nick Saban, Philadelphia Eagles offensive coordinator Brad Childress and New England Patriots offensive coordinator Charlie Weiss.

Spurrier would be a popular choice with fans in South Florida.

"At this point we have no intention to talk to coach Spurrier," Jones said. "Will that change? I'm not sure. But at this point we don't have any intention of doing so."

Saban issued a statement saying he was not interested in leaving the Tigers.

Bates, whose last head-coaching job was 19 years ago in the USFL, has been with the Dolphins since Wannstedt hired him as defensive coordinator in 2000. His first game as interim coach will be Nov. 21 at Seattle, and his plans for the bye week changed when he was promoted. "I was going fishing Friday," he said with a smile. "But that's been canceled."

Vikings' Moss 'likely to sit this week, too'

The Associated Press

EDEN PRAIRIE, Minn. — Randy Moss probably will miss another game this Sunday because of his strained right hamstring.

Though Moss made progress during rehabilitation over the weekend, Minnesota Vikings coach Mike Tice said Tuesday the star receiver likely will be listed as doubtful for the game at first Green Bay. Moss missed the first game of his seven-year career Monday night when the Vikings (3-9) lost at Indianapolis.

The All-Pro hasn't caught a pass since he got hurt in the second quarter of Minnesota's game at New Orleans on Oct. 17.

Kickoff specialist Aaron Eling broke his right ankle while making a tackle against the Colts and is out for the season. The Vikings plan to work out several free agents because veteran Merton Andersen lacks the leg strength for kickoffs. The list includes Travis Dorsch, who was in training camp with the team.

Linebacker Raonnell Smith (concussion) and running back Mewelde Moore (ankle) are expected back for the Packers game, and linebacker Chris Claiborne (calf) might be ready as well.

Despite Moore's return, Ontario Smith is likely to start.

Eagles DT Rayburn injured in car accident

PHILADELPHIA — Philadelphia Eagles defensive tackle Sam Rayburn was cited for leaving the scene of an accident after he walked away from a car accident early Tuesday.

Rayburn was released from a hospital after being treated for a head laceration.

A second-year pro from Tulsa, Rayburn leads all defensive tackles with five sacks this season. He has become a valuable member after earning a roster spot as a rookie free agent last season.

The accident occurred when Rayburn turned in front of an on-



coming vehicle, said Inspector William Colarulo. Rayburn then left his car parked in front of a nearby store and flagged down officers a few blocks away. He may have been disoriented because of his head injury, Colarulo said.

Dolphins terminate Edwards' contract, waive Bryant

DAVIE, Fla. — The Miami Dolphins terminated the contract of safety Antuan Edwards, who started eight games this season, but gave no reason Wednesday.

Edwards, 27, made 45 tackles and one sack after winning the job in training camp from Arturo Freeman. Edwards was in his first year with the Dolphins after spending his first three NFL seasons with Green Bay.

The Dolphins (1-8) also reached an injury settlement with kicker Matt Bryant, who went 3-for-3 on field goals while Orlando Mare recovered from an injured leg. Bryant missed Sunday's 24-23 loss to Arizona with a right quadriceps injury and was replaced by Bill Gramatica, who missed an extra point and was cut Tuesday.

Also on Tuesday, starting guard Jeno James had right knee surgery, and it's not clear how long it will take him to recover.

Broncos shake up defensive backs staff

DENVER — The Denver Broncos fired David Gibbs as defensive back coach Wednesday and replaced him with assistant Jimmy Spencer, a former Broncos safety.

Kirk Doll, an assistant defensive and special teams coach, will help Spencer coach defensive backs.

No reasons were immediately given for Gibbs' departure. He is the son of Alex Gibbs, the former longtime offensive line coach for the Broncos.



Top Scores for Week 9

182	hofgan	1hc 16 inf
176	Escape05	Coleman Dental Clinic
170	rootedinfavre	Yokota
168	marinedi	3rd FSSG
168	Moon Pie	Sembach AB, Germany
166	Mercury Soldier 3112	Eagle base
164	newbro87	417th BSB HHD
164	ChiefBLB	Camp Humphreys-Area III
164	BelieveinTheBOLTS	3d FSSG
160	Smoke7	Camp Zama

Best Overall Scores

1422	glants1	hbc 2/37 ar
1410	STEELFROGWOOD	MAG-6
1400	Jack58	422 ABS RAF Croughton
1388	packers97	FISC
1384	Jaguar One	DoDDS
1384	Mercury	Misawa AB
1374	Allison	18 CES
1368	Joe Corleone	Misawa
1362	Sturgeman	Kadena
1360	Chickybowow	726 AMS

See websites for official game rules.

Check this space every Thursday during the entire NFL season for the weeks Top Scores and Best Overall Scores during the NFL Challenge.

Giants back Warner, but Manning's time is coming

Sacks, INTs prompt calls to play rookie

BY TOM CANAVAN
The Associated Press

EAST RUTHERFORD, N.J. — Wellington Mara walked through the New York Giants' locker room and smiled when he saw the throng of reporters surrounding Kurt Warner.

The owner of the team never stopped to listen. After 80 years in football, he knew what was happening.

Warner had a bad game Sunday in a 28-21 loss to the Chicago Bears, and coach Tom Coughlin momentarily considered replacing him with No. 1 overall draft pick Eli Manning.

Bad mistake, especially in New York. It began one of those quarterback debates about whether the rookie should replace the two-time MVP.

Mara has seen his share of quarterback controversies here. The Phil Simms-Jeff Hostetler battle in 1991 was the most memorable because both players had won Super Bowls and the situation was handled poorly by then-coach Ray Rundy.

But as far as Coughlin is concerned, there is no controversy. Warner will be the starter for Sunday's game against Arizona. He has led the Giants to a 5-3 record at the halfway point, playing New York a game ahead in the race for the No. 1 wild card berth.

However, Warner knows Manning's time may not be far away. It's something he has understood since signing with the Giants in June.

Mara and company didn't agree to pay the brother of Colts quarterback Peyton Manning some \$45 million over the next six years to wear a baseball cap on the sideline.

"Everybody has been waiting for this from day one, and the funny thing is that you can have one game that's not up to par and all of a sudden that talk starts," Warner said. "I don't know too many places around the league where that situation would occur."

What concerns Coughlin is the amount of turnovers Warner has committed, and the number of sacks he has taken in recent home losses to Detroit and Chicago.

In the two games, Warner has thrown three interceptions, lost three fumbles and been sacked 13 times. Many problems have happened because the 33-year-old Warner has held the ball too long trying to make a play.

When Warner has avoided the mistakes, the Giants have won. "I'm going to battle, and I'm going to give everybody every-



Giants quarterback Kurt Warner goes down for one of the seven sacks Sunday by the Bears. In two straight losses, Warner has been sacked 13 times, thrown three interceptions and lost three fumbles.

"Everybody has been waiting for this from day one, and the funny thing is that you can have one game that's not up to par and all of a sudden that talk starts."

Kurt Warner
Giants quarterback

thing I've got every time I step out there and that's all I can do," Warner said. "Whatever issue anybody else wants to make, they can make that issue, but I'm worried about battling with this team in this locker room and going out and winning more football games."

Manning was surrounded by reporters after Sunday's loss in a scene that gave the impression he had just thrown four touchdown passes. When asked about playing Monday, Manning said all the right things.

"Kurt is our quarterback," Manning said. "He has gotten us to

where we are right now. I expect him to play and put us in position to win."

Warner is familiar with controversy. He lost his starting job in St. Louis to Marc Bulger last season after sustaining a concussion in a season-opening loss to the Giants, a game in which he threw an interception and fumbled six times.

None of the Giants are blaming Warner for the recent losses. "That's for the people at home, that's for them to do when they are sitting on the couch or playing poker," center Shaun O'Hara said. "We're a team, and we do things together. Monday is always a hard day after you lose."

Receiver Ike Hilliard wondered where people were pointing a finger at him, since he lost a fumble during a 20-point Bears run late in the first half.

"If it was all Kurt's fault, he wouldn't have 10 other guys taking snaps with him," Hilliard said. "He would be taking snaps from himself, throwing the ball to himself, and trying to run and block as well."

Warner insists that he has not suddenly forgotten how to play. He just made some bad decisions in one game.

"I knew at some point in time the questions [about Eli] would come," Warner said. "But I'm not going to lose any sleep over it or worry about it too much."

If he has another bad game, he just might have to.

NFL statistics

AFC individual leaders

Week 9				
Quarterbacks	Att	Yds	TD	Int
Manning, Ind.	263	175	2	2
Brees, S.D.	242	160	18	1
Wendell, N.Y.	237	152	12	6
Pennington, N.Y.	216	144	13	9
Carr, Hou.	250	160	12	9
Stacy, N.E.	246	154	10	1
Plummer, Den.	237	177	22	10
Lefkowitz, N.O.	273	179	9	7
Chase, Cinc.	218	126	15	8

Runners				
Att	Yds	LG	TD	Int
Holmes, Cinc.	196	892	4	12
Mason, Ten.	190	603	2	7
Brown, N.Y.	169	810	4	5
James, Ind.	177	791	5	9
Dillon, N.E.	154	749	4	4
Stacy, N.E.	151	707	4	1
Tomlinson, S.D.	179	689	3	4
R. Johnson, Cinc.	175	683	3	3
Droughns, Den.	146	678	4	3
J. Lewis, Bal.	127	575	4	5

Receivers				
No	Yds	Att	TD	Int
Gates, S.F.	54	602	11	29
Wynn, Min.	50	599	11	3
Ward, P.	51	621	12	58
Moore, Buf.	50	616	13	9
Johnson, Hou.	45	603	15	4
Harris, Min.	44	566	12	4
Smith, Den.	44	637	14	8
Chase, Cinc.	43	576	13	3
McMichael, Cinc.	41	551	12	4

Punters				
No	Yds	Att	LG	Int
Lechler, Oak.	37	1758	40	45
Ja. Miller, N.E.	25	1140	62	48
Hendrich, Ten.	28	1137	41	43
Gardecki, P.	32	1040	56	43
Hanson, Jack.	32	1055	60	43
Chase, Cinc.	32	989	52	41
Mooman, Buf.	43	1848	80	40
Knox, Den.	38	1544	62	40
Stanley, Hou.	33	1402	57	42

Punt Returns				
No	Yds	Att	LG	TD
Hall, K.C.	30	364	126	78
Sims, Bal.	18	181	11	30
Northcutt, Cinc.	19	202	106	44
Wynn, Min.	16	176	94	44
Clements, Buf.	17	157	92	40
Parkey, S.D.	19	189	83	32
Wess, N.Y.	18	147	77	31
Wess, N.Y.	18	147	77	31

Kickoff Returns				
No	Yds	Att	LG	TD
McGee, Buf.	25	682	273	98
Moston, Cinc.	14	288	66	33
Dwight, S.D.	32	631	260	87
Andrie, N.Y.	28	612	41	30
Droughns, Den.	13	227	25	30
R. Johnson, N.Y.	29	234	31	30
Pryatt, Ind.	10	230	23	30
Chase, Cinc.	12	605	24	40
Rhodes, Ind.	22	602	22	30
Coughlin, P.	15	223	48	30

Scoring				
TD	Touch	Reb	Pts	Int
Holmes, Cinc.	8	0	0	48
Bettis, P.	8	0	0	48
Gates, S.F.	8	0	0	48
Mason, Ten.	8	0	0	48
Brown, N.Y.	8	0	0	48
Tomlinson, S.D.	8	0	0	48
James, Ind.	8	0	0	48
Wayne, Ind.	6	0	0	36
Johnson, Hou.	6	0	0	36
Davis, Hou.	5	0	0	30
Gonzalez, K.C.	5	0	0	30
Graham, N.Y.	5	0	0	30
Corral, N.Y.	5	0	0	30
LePine, Den.	5	0	0	30
Wittman, Ind.	5	0	0	30
Lofie, Den.	5	0	0	30

Kicking				
PA	FG	FG	FG	FG
22-32	18-19	53	68	68
14-14	16-20	53	68	68
14-14	16-20	53	68	68
14-14	16-20	53	68	68
14-14	16-20	53	68	68
14-14	16-20	53	68	68
14-14	16-20	53	68	68
14-14	16-20	53	68	68
14-14	16-20	53	68	68
14-14	16-20	53	68	68

Team statistics				
AVERAGE PER GAME	OFFENSE	DEFENSE	INT	TD
Indianapolis	413	1153	28.9	38
Atlanta	412	1158	28.9	38
Denver	385	1178	28.1	38
San Diego	357	1081	25.1	38
New York Jets	350	1442	20.0	38
San Francisco	347	1361	28.9	38
Pittsburgh	341	1608	18.0	38
San Diego	341	1608	18.0	38
Tennessee	341	1336	18.7	38
Oakland	341	1336	18.7	38
Cleveland	341	1336	18.7	38
Cleveland	341	1336	18.7	38
Buffalo	294	1090	17.0	38
Miami	287	1067	18.0	38
Baltimore	257	1333	12.8	38

Team statistics				
AVERAGE PER GAME	OFFENSE	DEFENSE	INT	TD
Minnesota	372	1250	28.9	38
Washington	364	1193	27.0	38
St. Louis	371	1250	28.9	38
Seattle	365	1414	27.1	38
San Diego	365	1414	27.1	38
Philadelphia	341	1365	28.9	38
New York Giants	341	1365	28.9	38
San Francisco	341	1365	28.9	38
San Francisco	341	1365	28.9	38
Atlanta	341	1365	28.9	38
Atlanta	341	1365	28.9	38
Tampa Bay	341	1365	28.9	38
Washington	341	1365	28.9	38
Arizona	341	1365	28.9	38
San Diego	341	1365	28.9	38
Detroit	258	750	18.0	38

Team statistics				
AVERAGE PER GAME	OFFENSE	DEFENSE	INT	TD
Washington	393	1160	17.0	38
Tampa Bay	393	1160	17.0	38
St. Louis	393	1160	17.0	38
Chicago	393	1160	17.0	38
New York Giants	393	1160	17.0	38
Carolina	393	1160	17.0	38
Green Bay	393	1160	17.0	38
Dallas	393	1160	17.0	38
San Diego	393	1160	17.0	38
Philadelphia	393	1160	17.0	38
Minnesota	393	1160	17.0	38
Atlanta	393	1160	17.0	38
St. Louis	393	1160	17.0	38
New Orleans	393	1160	17.0	38

NFC individual leaders

Week 9				
Quarterbacks	Att	Yds	TD	Int
Alexander, Sea.	48	579	13	9
Barber, N.Y.G.	116	80	939	6
McMichael, Cinc.	270	129	14	4
Rattay, S.F.	198	126	136	9
Palmer, N.Y.G.	283	164	10	9
Favre, G.B.	269	173	2007	14
Harris, P.	269	173	1704	9
Warner, N.Y.G.	238	148	1374	5
Wynn, Min.	281	165	1051	9
Testaverde, Fla.	263	164	2051	9

Runners				
Att	Yds	LG	TD	Int
Alexander, Sea.	48	579	13	9
Barber, N.Y.G.	116	80	939	6
McMichael, Cinc.	270	129	14	4
Rattay, S.F.	198	126	136	9
Palmer, N.Y.G.	283	164	10	9
Favre, G.B.	269	173	2007	14
Harris, P.	269	173	1704	9
Warner, N.Y.G.	238	148	1374	5
Wynn, Min.	281	165	1051	9
Testaverde, Fla.	263	164	2051	9

Receivers				
No	Yds	Att	TD	Int
E. Johnson, S.F.	51	547	10	25
Owens, P.	49	750	13	30
Horn, N.O.	40	691	12	33
Brace, S.D.	48	684	14	36
Walker, G.B.	46	783	17	29
Harris, Min.	45	688	10	42
Witten, Dal.	45	688	10	42
Holt, S.D.	41	602	14	32
Clayton, T.B.	42	595	14	32
Drives, G.B.	43	543	14	32
Coles, Was.	42	498	11	45

Punters				
No	Yds	Att	LG	Int
Tupa, Was.	37	1637	56	44
Berger, N.O.	40	1637	56	44
Landeta, S.D.	33	1436	63	43
Sauerbrun, Car.	31	1436	63	43
Maynard, Chi.	33	2231	58	42
Roben, Sea.	30	2091	58	42
Harris, Det.	30	2091	58	42

Punt Returns				
No	Yds	Att	LG	TD
Bossom, Atl.	21	271	104	71
Leis, N.O.	17	176	104	71
Battie, S.F.	19	187	98	71
McQuarters, Chi.	22	268	111	71
Ward, Dal.	14	114	81	0
Chattman, G.B.	14	114	81	0
Johns, N.Y.C.	19	147	77	31
Drummond, Min.	18	147	77	31
Morton, Was.	13	86	62	14
Mahe, P.	13	86	62	14

17	96	5.6	2
koff Returners			
No	Yds	Avg	
15	417	27.8	3
19	521	27.4	9
32	821	25.7	9
20	509	25.5	6
12	299	24.9	4
12	297	24.8	1
15	354	23.6	7
22	503	22.9	3
35	786	22.5	

Toledo derails No. Illinois' MAC title run

The Associated Press

DEKALB, Ill. — Scooter McDougle ran for 133 yards and two touchdowns, and Toledo took control of the MAC West race with a 31-17 victory over Northern Illinois on Tuesday night.

College football briefs

Toledo (7-3, 6-1) can wrap up its third trip to the conference championship game in four years by beating Bowling Green on Nov. 23. Northern Illinois (7-3, 6-1) blew a chance to claim a spot in its first MAC title game.

The Huskies played without Garrett Wolfe, who missed the game due to an unspecified injury. Wolfe leads the nation in scoring (12 points per game), touchdowns (18) and points (108).

Trailing 17-14 at halftime, Toledo scored 17 unanswered points.

Finalists announced for Thorpe, Lombardi awards

Miami's Antrel Rolle and Auburn's Carlos Rogers are among 12 semifinalists for the Jim Thorpe Award announced Tuesday.

The other semifinalists for the award given annually to college football's best defensive back are Tennessee's Jason Allen, Georgia Tech's James Butler, Georgia's Thomas Davis, Wisconsin's Jim Leonard, Oregon State's Mitch McWaters, Clemson's Justin Miller, New Mexico's Brandon Payne, Michigan's Ernest Shazor, LSU's Corey Webster and Virginia Tech's Jimmy Williams.

For the second straight year, Georgia defensive end David Pulak is a finalist for the Lombardi Award, given annually to the nation's top lineman or linebacker. Southern Cal defensive end



Texas' Derrick Johnson is one of four finalists for the Lombardi Award, given yearly to the nation's best linebacker or lineman.

Shaun Cody, Wisconsin defensive end Erasmus James and Texas linebacker Derrick Johnson are the other finalists.

Purdue QB Orton questionable

INDIANAPOLIS — After missing last week's 23-21 loss to Iowa — Purdue's fourth straight — Boilermakers quarterback Kyle Orton said he was "50-50" for Saturday's game against Ohio State.

Asked Tuesday if he would be able to play, Orton, who has a hip injury, said, "I have no idea."

Two Mich. St. WRs arrested for alleged planted bombs

EAST LANSING, Mich. — Two Michigan State players were arrested and charged with possessing a dangerous chemical compound after they allegedly planted homemade bombs that blew up outside campus apartments.

Terry Love and Irving Campbell, 19-year-old freshmen receivers, were arrested Tuesday as they left the scene of the first explosion, campus police said.

No one was hurt and there was no property damage, campus police Sgt. Florence McGlothlin-Taylor said.

CU's season hasn't slipped away

In spite of scandal, inconsistent play, Buffs can reach Big 12 title game

BY EDDIE PELLIS

The Associated Press

BOULDER, Colo. — The coach is in trouble because he doesn't win enough games. The athletic director is in trouble because his department doesn't have enough money to fire the coach. The players, meanwhile, are playing for a championship.

It has been a bizarre season at Colorado, and nothing is more bizarre than the fact that the Buffaloes — yes, the scandal-plagued, youth-filled, inconsistent Buffaloes — still have a legitimate chance to make it to the Big 12 title game.

They can thank their rivals in the Big 12 North, which is turning out to be one of the weakest divisions in the history of big-time college football.

None of the teams have better than a 5-4 overall record. Iowa State and Nebraska lead the division with 3-3 marks in conference.

Missouri, Kansas State and Colorado are one game behind. At five teams are in the running, and at CU, that's a reason for the coaches and players to smile — or maybe just shrug their shoulders considering everything they've been through.

"I think we're beyond clinging, beyond hanging on," Colorado coach Gary Barnett said Tuesday. There's like a renewed vigor, a renewed enthusiasm, a renewed sense of quest."

It's funny how quickly things change.

Just last week, Barnett was talk-

ing about how the rape and recruiting scandal that mushroomed last offseason had taken a toll on his young team, which was 4-4, 1-4 in the conference, after a 31-7 loss to Texas.

Also last week, the Rocky Mountain News reported that athletic director Dick Tharp could be on his way out soon.

talk of hirings and firings has been replaced by thoughts of an improbable championship chase.

There's a new sense of urgency in practices. Players are talking about bowl games and the postseason instead of playing out the string. And even though a meeting with No. 2 Oklahoma is the likely reward for winning the

North — not a pretty prospect — at least the Buffs would be playing instead of watching.

"Why sit here and be average when we can go to Kansas City?" running back Lawrence Vickery said.

The tiebreakers are convoluted, to say the least. Suffice it to say that Colorado does not control its own destiny, but if it defeats Kansas State on Saturday and Nebraska on Nov. 26, there are a handful of scenarios that would land the Buffs in Kansas City, playing in their third conference title game in four years.

The Buffaloes are also one win from being bowl eligible, and even if it is a trip to Shreveport, La., for the Independence Bowl, it would have to be deemed a success for the program.

To Barnett, who was suspended last spring and whose job was called for by columnists in the local papers as recently as two weeks ago, this team has been special — not so much because of the football it has played, but rather for the travails it has endured.

"It's like being the father of a kid going into his teens and trying to figure everything out," he said. "And on top of that, Dad almost loses his job."



Colorado quarterback Joel Klatt (14) recovers a fumble during the Buffaloes' come-from-behind 30-21 victory at Kansas last Saturday. With victories over Kansas State and Nebraska, Colorado might win the Big 12 North title.

Tharp had already seen a good bit of his power stripped in the wake of the scandal. The athletic department isn't making much money, which some believe leaves the program beholden to Barnett, win or lose. It would cost about \$2 million to pay off the remaining two years of his contract. Tharp also alienated boosters with a plan to ask some longtime season-ticket holders for "donations" of up to \$300 to retain their tickets. Tharp, meanwhile, has denied that he plans to leave.

But since Colorado's 30-21 victory at Kansas last Saturday — a game in which the Buffs overcame an early 14-0 deficit — the

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BY RUSTY MILLER

The Associated Press

COLUMBUS, Ohio — Former Ohio State star Maurice Claret accused football coach Jim Tressel, his staff and school boosters of arranging for him to get passing grades, cars, and thousands of dollars, including for bogus summer jobs. The school immediately denied the claims Tuesday.

Most of Claret's charges, made in an interview with ESPN The Magazine, were addressed as part of an NCAA probe that found the running back lied to investigators, leading to his suspension from the team he helped win the 2002 national title.

Ohio State athletic director Andy Geiger was not surprised by the accusations, saying Claret had vowed to hurt the program. "In moments of frustration during the investigation, (Maurice) might say something like, 'I can blow this whole program up,' or something like that, and so we would then say, 'OK, blow it up. Tell us what you know,'" Geiger said.

After being suspended by Ohio State and the NCAA for the 2003 season, Claret went to court to challenge the NFL's rule preventing players from entering the draft less than three years after graduating from high school. He won initial federal court ruling but lost several appeals and was kept out of the draft.

Friends and family members say Claret has been working out with a personal trainer in preparation for the 2005 NFL Draft. He has not spoken publicly in months.

"I have had a chance to read the article, and the allegations as they were mentioned are, simply, untrue. Period," Tressel said.

According to the magazine, Claret said Tressel set him up with a loaner car.

Geiger said Tressel did try to help Claret buy a car through the dealership that leases cars to several Ohio State coaches and administrators. But Claret's mother did not meet with the dealer to make arrangements to buy the car, and the dealership came

to Columbus several days later to repossess it.

Geiger said Tressel's actions did not break NCAA rules, adding that the coach put other players in touch with the dealership, too.

Claret also said members of Tressel's staff introduced him to boosters who slipped him thousands of dollars in cash — the more he played, the more he would receive.

"When you'd leave, (the booster) sets you straight," Claret told the magazine. "They say, 'All you got any money in your pocket? They make sure your money's straight.'"

Claret said Tressel's brother Dick, a member of Ohio State's coaching staff, arranged to get Claret a job working for a landscaper. Claret said he was paid even though he did not show up for work. The player also alleged that the football staff arranged an academic adviser who set him up with professors who would pass him even if he skipped class.

Claret's mother also alleged the coaches and administrators were found to be baseless in investigations by the NCAA and the university.

Claret says Ohio St. broke rules

Carpentier will make switch from Champ Car to IRL

The Associated Press

Patrick Carpentier will drive for Red Bull Cheever Racing next season and Toyota will supply the team's engines, a source close to the team told The Associated Press.

Carpentier will make the switch from the rival Champ Car World Series, joining holdover driver Alex Barron, and Toyota will replace Chevrolet as the team's engine supplier, the source said, speaking on condition of anonymity.

Team owner Eddie Cheever was to announce the moves Wednesday afternoon.

Carpentier, a 33-year-old Canadian, has driven in Champ Car for eight years, the past seven for Forsythe Racing. He has five victories, including a win this year at Monterey, Calif.

He will replace Ed Carpentier, the stepson of IRL founder Tony George, on the Cheever team.

Carpentier had nine top-5 finishes in 13 races in 2004, finishing third in the season points, trailing only Newman/Haas Racing drivers Sebastien Bourdais and Bruno Junqueira. That matched Carpentier's career best in the Champ Car series.

Carpentier said after the season-finale last Sunday in Mexico City that he had been negotiating with three IRL teams because he wants to drive in the IRL's Indianapolis 500 and do more oval racing.

The Champ Car schedule is mostly road and street courses, while the IRL is adding its first three road races to a previously all-oval schedule in 2005. One of Carpentier's victories came in 2001 on two-mile oval at Michigan International Speedway.

Serena Williams says Sharapova is 'sexy'

LOS ANGELES — Serena Williams knows a thing or two about sex appeal. And the tennis star complimented Russian teenager Maria Sharapova on Tuesday for having lots of it.

"She's sexy," Williams said, smiling.

Organizers of this week's WTA Championships have focused their advertising on Sharapova, the 17-year-old blond beauty who stunned tennis by winning Wimbledon in July. Her leggy image is featured in a tournament poster with the tag line, "The closer you sit the hotter she gets."

"I love her legs in this picture. Her legs are so sexy," Williams said, studying the black and white shot of Sharapova sitting in a short skirt on a court. "She is not being sold in this picture. This is a hot picture. If you're not ready to sell pictures, then you shouldn't be part of the tournament. Unfortunately, I hate to say it, but sex sells."

Williams said it didn't bother her that someone Sharapova's age was being portrayed in an alluring way.

"I know a lot of people who are 12 and doing things they shouldn't be doing," she said. "Whether you're an actress or a singer, it's always the sexier ones that are selling more tickets or selling more albums."



Williams doesn't believe American culture is too uptight.

"If anything, we're a little loose," she said.

Williams has created an on-court stir over the years with her skintight outfits, including a leather-looking "catsuit" she wore as a 17-year-old player at the U.S. Open. She is currently designing outfits that she will wear

next year.

Top Texas recruit sits under NCAA inquiry

AUSTIN — Texas freshman forward Mike Williams, one of the top basketball recruits in the country, was held out of the exhibition victory over Division II Lehigh-Rhyne while the NCAA investigates whether he received improper benefits when he was in high school.

A team spokesman said Williams can practice and that the decision to hold him out Tuesday night was precautionary.

Williams' attorney, Don Jackson, said the NCAA investigation delves into AAU coach Mark Komara of Huntsville, Ala., and whether Williams and other players on the AAU team received improper travel benefits.

Jackson called the investigation "a fishing expedition" and "a vendetta" by the NCAA against

Komara.

"Mike Williams and his family have received no extra benefits," Jackson told The Dallas Morning News. "The NCAA is trying to use a bunch of innocent kids to try to get to Komara, who they've been after for years."

Jackson said NCAA investigators talked to Williams a couple months ago and that the issue in question dates to Williams' sophomore year in high school. Jackson was a McDonald's All-American last season.

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SPORTS



Rangers' Showalter, Braves' Cox
chosen as majors' top managers,
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Heat show promise

Shaq living up to his end of vow to bring title to Miami

BY TIM REYNOLDS
The Associated Press

MIAMI — Shaquille O'Neal promised to bring a championship to Miami. And although it's way too early to be thinking about titles, he can't wait to show off his new team to his old Western Conference rivals.

O'Neal had a season-high 20 points Tuesday to help Miami beat Washington 103-93 and move to 4-0 for the first time in franchise history. Any victory is nice, of course, but beating the Wizards twice, Cleveland and New Jersey hardly proves the Heat are true contenders.

A pair of tests await Miami later this week, with Dallas visiting Thursday and then a game Friday at San Antonio.

O'Neal, who was traded to Miami by the Los Angeles Lakers in the summer, seems eager to face the likes of Dirk Nowitzki and Tim Duncan again.

"We have some teams coming up that are tough to play," O'Neal said. "They shoot the ball well, so we are really going to have to play good defense against those guys. When we do what we are supposed to do, though, I always love our chances — against any other team."

The Heat started 0-7 a year ago. Now, after trading with Lakers for the 11-time All-Star, Miami is one of only four unbeaten NBA teams; Indiana, Utah and Phoenix are also 4-0.

O'Neal did a little of everything Tuesday, finishing with nine rebounds, four assists, three blocks and nine turnovers as Miami won a team-record 14th straight regular-season home game.

"They give it to the big fella, and he makes it easy for them," Wizards center Brendan Haywood said.

Dwyane Wade continued his strong start, too, with 22 points and nine assists, and Udonis Haslem chipped in with 18 points and 10 rebounds for Miami.

"We're still learning each other," Heat guard Eddie Jones said. "It's a great thing when you're winning and you're continuing to learn about each other. What happens when we get it all together, that's what you're trying to get to."

Gilbert Arenas scored 20 points for Washington, and Antawn Jamison finished with 14, well off the 27.3-point average he carried into the game.

Washington made only 43.2 percent of its shots and committed 20 turnovers.



Miami center Shaquille O'Neal (32) scores over Washington Wizards' Michael Ruffin (51) in the first quarter Tuesday in Miami. O'Neal scored 20 points as the Heat moved to 4-0 for the first time with a 103-93 win.

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ball still bouncing
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**Despite record,
Dolphins sorry to
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Magic find winning easier with healthy Hill Page 39

